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ARAB TIMES

THURSDAY-FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 1, 1989/JAMADIL AWWAL 1-2, 1410 AH

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Libya arrests Abu Nidal

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29. (Agencies): Abu Nidal, the reputed leader of one of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups, has been placed under house arrest in Libya after waging a campaign of assassination against opponents within his own organisation, Arab sources said.

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khaddafi, who had been under pressure by other Arab governments to break with the Palestinian hard-liner, used the power struggle within Abu Nidal's organisation as a reason to move against him, the sources said.

"The Libyan leader used this struggle and put Abu Nidal under house arrest to improve (Khaddafi's) image with the West, and namely the United States," said one source, who agreed to speak on the condition he be identified only as an Arab source in the Middle East.

An Egyptian source who also requested anonymity said Khaddafi ordered a freeze on "all activities and movement" by Abu Nidal about 30 days ago and then granted the shadowy Palestinian hard-liner the status of a political refugee. The move came amid reports Abu Nidal is seriously ill from cancer, Arab sources said.

"Khaddafi has banned Abu Nidal from moving around and ordered a freeze on his activity," the Egyptian source said. "In return, he has been granted a political refugee status."

US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Washington could not confirm the report.

Many hard-line followers of Abu Nidal are deserted to join the ranks of the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah, Algerian sources said today.

The same sources yesterday said Abu Nidal was in a military hospital in Libya dying of terminal cancer.

Abu Nidal is under medical supervision at his home in Libya after the recurrence of a heart ailment, senior Palestine Liberation Organisation officials said.

But his life is not in immediate danger, said two officials, interviewed separately by telephone from the PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital.

They insisted that reports from Algeria that Abu Nidal was dying of cancer were "inaccurate."

The sources in Algiers, who included an Algerian physician summoned to Tripoli several times in recent weeks, said Abu Nidal's organisation was "in the process of breaking up."

The physician stood firmly by his report of Abu Nidal suffering cancer, but said it was not inconsistent with the leader being held under house arrest. "Maybe both stories are true," he said.

He said it made little difference to his followers whether Abu Nidal was incapacitated by reasons of health or political status.

Whatever the cause of the turmoil within the ranks of Abu Nidal's movement, it is certain that his followers are turning to Hezbollah, the physician said.

A diplomatic source in Algiers, who insisted his name be withheld, agreed that Abu Nidal is losing followers to the extremist Shiite Muslim group.

Suitcase blown up

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 29. (API): Bomb squad officers blew up a suitcase destined for a Colombian jetliner today after X-rays showed what appeared to be sticks of dynamite, wiring and a clock, authorities said.

Police could not immediately say whether the bag contained a bomb.

The item was discovered in luggage that was to have been loaded onto an Avianca Airlines jet bound for Colombia, where drug traffickers have waged a campaign of bombings and assassinations, authorities said.



Final battle?

A Muslim militiaman carries a rocket-propelled grenade launcher (RPG) and another soldier stands behind him, both in a combat zone after fears of renewed battles to oust Aoun.

Denard in control

Comoros army disarmed

DZAOUZI, Mayotte, Nov. 29. (Reuters): The mercenary-led Presidential Guard has taken control of the Comoros Islands following the assassination of Ahmed Abdallah and has disarmed the army and gendarmerie, diplomats in the capital Moroni said today.

The diplomats, contacted by telephone from the neighbouring French-ruled island of Mayotte, said Abdallah was killed by members of the Presidential Guard with the complicity of Bob Denard, the Frenchman who led the mercenary invasion of the Indian Ocean islands in 1978 which put Abdallah in power.

The reasons for Denard falling out with the president were not immediately known.

The diplomats said that although Said Djohar, the president of the Supreme Court, had officially taken over as acting president, the only man in authority was Denard.

"He is very much in charge of the situation here and when the cabinet meets, he meets with them," one diplomat said.

Denard founded the Presidential Guard and remains the main force behind it.

NEWSWATCH

Two killed in violence: At least two people were killed on Wednesday in violence that erupted following a Soviet parliamentary decision to change the status of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, an official in the territory said.

A spokesman for the Moscow-appointed committee currently administering Nagorno-Karabakh gave few details of the disturbances. But he said the two deaths occurred just outside the territory in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"Two people are definitely dead and reports of other deaths are being checked," he said by telephone from the territory's administrative centre, Stepanakert. (Reuters)

(Earlier Report Page 6)

Constitutional changes: Parliament on Wednesday approved constitutional changes to end the Czechoslovak Communist Party's 40-year monopoly on power, and a top party official said free elections could be held within a year.

The 319 deputies present voted unanimously to scrap Article 4 of the Czechoslovak constitution, which mandated the leading role of the Communist Party, and Article 16, which mandated that all education be based on Marxism-Leninism.

The changes were among concessions to opposition demands agreed to at a meeting on Tuesday between Premier Ladislav Adamec and opposition leaders. (AP)

(Earlier Report Page 7)

Serbs call off mass protest: Serbian activists on Wednesday called off a rally in the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia which politicians feared could lead to bloodshed.

"We are not going to Slovenia," Bogdan Kecman, president of the Borz grass-roots Serbian organisation which was organising the rally, told Reuters. (Reuters)

(Earlier Report Page 7)

Save unwanted cats: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Al Fassi, who left Florida six years ago, has returned with the goal of saving unwanted cats from the demise they usually face after a short stay at a shelter.

"I have街售ers from his royal highness to put aside \$2.5 million for cats," said Victor Talat, personal adviser to Al Fassi. "We are going to send Asians through the United States to hunt the cats. We are going to recruit people to do this, but they have to be Muslims, they have to have good hearts." (UPI)

The item was discovered in luggage that was to have been loaded onto an Avianca Airlines jet bound for Colombia, where drug traffickers have waged a campaign of bombings and assassinations, authorities said.

Aoun waves olive branch

Christian militia backs general amid war preparations

BEIRUT, Nov 29, (Agencies): Syria sent more reinforcements into Lebanon today, beefing up troops poised for an imminent thrust into the Christian enclave to oust defiant Gen. Michel Aoun from the presidential palace.

But Aoun said today he was ready to compromise with the new Syrian-backed Lebanese government and denied he has been sacked as army commander.

The Lebanese Forces coalition of Christian militias brushed aside differences with Aoun and announced it would fight alongside his 20,000 soldiers to defend Christian regions.

The Phalange Party, the main right-wing Christian political force which is also at odds with Aoun, pledged to confront any attempt to storm into the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) enclave, comprising East Beirut and the hinterland to the north and northeast.

Meanwhile, 33 right-wing French parliamentarians met with the general at the presidential palace in the East Beirut suburb of Baabda.

In a show of support that contradicted the French government's official stand, the parliamentarians joined thousands of youths who have formed a human shield around the palace to underscore support of Aoun.

French legislator Bernard Bosson said he was "amazed at the flood of masses" at the palace. "This is like the people's movement in Eastern Europe asking for democracy," he said.

The French government has supported newly elected President Elias Hrawi who has fired Aoun as army commander and as head of an interim military cabinet in an attempt to strengthen his central government and reunitate the fractured military.

Residents in Chtaura, a market town in east Lebanon on the Beirut-Damascus highway, said scores of 122mm and 130mm Syrian artillery pieces were being towed toward Beirut and the central mountains above Baabda this afternoon, followed by dozens of trucks filled with ammunition.

Hundreds of empty trucks were headed toward the Syrian border, apparently after unloading troops and equipment.

The residents had reported that about 15,000 troops in 800 trucks moved into Lebanon through the Bekaa valley between Monday night and midday yesterday.

These were accompanied by 90 Soviet-designed tanks, 120 artillery pieces, mine-clearing tanks, armoured personnel carriers and ammunition trucks, they said.

Both Christian and Muslim military sources said the Soviet-designed T-55 Syrian tanks were poised along the Green Line that slices Beirut into Christian and Muslim sectors.

The larger T-62s formed an "arch of fire" directed against Aoun's troops in Soul Al Gharb, a strategic mountain town that commands the main routes leading to Baabda, they said.

"They are in combat formation. It seems they are only waiting for the orders," one source said.

"It's a significant buildup. The kind of measures that precede a major battle," the Christian military source said.

Samir Geagea, commander of the Lebanese Forces, told a news conference: "I ordered our forces last night to be ready to link up with their comrades of the Lebanese Army in defence of the liberated areas," a reference to regions free of Syrian presence.

"The Lebanese forces fighters will defend the liberated area until the last minute of their lives," Geagea added.

The Phalange Party's politburo said in a statement: "This is the hour for mobilising all potential without exception to face any attempt to storm the Christian area."

"We shall be in the forward defence lines," it said.

A Christian military source said Aoun's forces have planted thousands of anti-armour and anti-personnel mines in the valleys separating the Christian enclave from Syrian positions.

He said Aoun's forces also have deployed anti-aircraft batteries around "sensitive and strategic locations" to confront a possible landing of air-borne hostile forces.

The general, however, again offered to negotiate a settlement with Syria.

In an interview with the French radio station Europe 1, Aoun said he was willing to reach a compromise with the Syrians.

"I invite France to undertake negotiations toward an end that safeguards the minimum, fundamental rights of the Lebanese people."

But he stressed that he was "ready to compromise and respect the vital interests of Syria, but not code the fundamental rights of the Lebanese people, above all their right to self-determination, independence and dignity."

Israel's Air Force chief warned Syria today it would risk confrontation with Israel if Syrian warplanes entered Lebanese airspace.

France urged Syria today not to start a battle in Beirut and pledged help for the civilian population if fighting broke out.

Amir warns criminal Israel

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 29, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad extended his greetings today on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On behalf of Kuwait and in his capacity as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, the Amir expressed appreciation to the Palestinian rights committee for the sincere efforts and endeavours in backing the Palestinians in their struggle for their rights.

The Amir singled out the Palestinians' right to self-determination over their national soil and an end to their plight and tragedy resulting from Israel's occupation, continued displacement and oppression.

He also reiterated Kuwait's and the OIC's strong condemnation and denunciation of the blatant Israeli acts against Islamic shrines in holy Al Quds and occupied Arab territories. He warned Israel against the outcome and consequences of this recklessness and criminal defiance of the Muslim nation and its feelings.

The Amir's message was delivered by Kuwait's Permanent Representative Mohammad A. Alabhan.

"The heroes of the Palestinian intifada who are standing fast in the face of brutal occupation are in a dire need for you and for all the efforts and support by those of your kind who advocate rights and justice peoples' just causes."

"This is because their battle is one against an arrogant occupier who knows no mercy or fairness, does not observe international law, does not heed world conscience and public opinion, and disregards the resolutions of international legitimacy," he said.

The occupier, the Amir said, is bent on achieving his plots and illusory objectives at the expense, and the ruins, of an entire nation whose rights, land and sovereignty he has denied, whose children he is today slaying, and whose sanctity he is desecrating.

The prolongation of such a situation for the Palestinian people, and Israel's persistence in its barbaric practices against them obligate all members of the world community to upgrade their support and backing for this righteous cause so as not to limit themselves to mere slogans in dealing with the Palestinian plight.

"Hence this significant occasion should not be just a day for delivering statements of solidarity but should be a juncture for launching effective action and positive, constructive contributions to that struggle which culminated with the heroes' intifada."

Weather

CLOUDS will appear with moderate south-easterly winds, may freshen at times, and a chance for rain. State of sea: Moderate. High water: 2.30 am, 12.00 pm. Low water: 8.00 am, 7.00 pm. Sunrise: 6.24 am. Sunset: 4.49 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 31°C 68°F. Ahmadi: 27°C 81°F. Falikar: 28°C 83°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 16°C 61°F. Ahmadi: 20°C 68°F. Falikar: 17°C 66°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 30°C 86°F. Ahmadi: 28°C 82°F. Falikar: 28°C 82°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 83 per cent. Ahmadi: 83 per cent. Falikar: 83 per cent.

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Nadia Comaneci flees, seeks political asylum in Hungary

Rajiv thrashes Rajmohan

NEW DELHI, Nov 29, (Agencies): Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has retained his seat in Parliament with one of the biggest vote margins. He was re-elected for the third time from the northern constituency of Amethi with a massive margin of 201,372 votes.

Rajiv's closest rival, Janata Dal candidate Rajmohan Gandhi — no relation of Rajiv — secured 69,099 votes. Rajiv Gandhi obtained 270,471 votes.

Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, who led India to independence in 1947, had alleged electoral fraud and poll rigging, forcing repolling in parts of the constituency and delayed counting.

Rajiv Gandhi was one of just 12 Congress Party members elected from Uttar Pradesh state as the ruling party suffered massive election reverses across north India and lost its majority in Parliament.

Interior Ministry was unable to confirm the report.

She blasted into limelight at the 1975 European Championships where she won gold medals in all gymnastic disciplines except floor exercises.

She was the first gymnast to obtain a perfect 10 score and won the all-round gold medal at the Montreal Games.

Comaneci told Hungarian border guards their trip was planned in advance and they were guided through the border by a Roman-

ian man, the radio said.

Tens of thousands of Romanians unhappy with life under President Nicolae Ceausescu and inspired by political reforms across the border, have fled to Hungary in the past two years.

Comaneci, who retired from competition in 1981, said she left behind a furnished flat, a car and financial security for the sake of freedom, the radio said.

See Page 22

Life after cancer mostly normal

BOSTON, (UPI)—As more and more people survive cancer, researchers are turning to the question of what life is like after tangling with the dreaded disease.

The answer looks encouraging, with a new study showing that most children overcome cancer go on to lead normal lives.

Overall it's a good news study," said Julianne Byrne, a researcher at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, who conducted the study published recently in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In the largest such study ever conducted, Byrne and her colleagues interviewed 2,170 people in Connecticut, California, Iowa, Kansas and Texas who had survived cancer when they were children or teenagers.

The researchers then interviewed 3,138 of their brothers or sisters who had not had cancer and compared the two groups in terms of whether they had married or divorced at least five years after being diagnosed.

The assumption was the being married is an indication of a fairly normal life, Byrne said.

"Most people in our society get married," she said. "It's reasonable to assume that marriage is an important indicator of quality of life for most people. Divorce may be an indication of some problem with quality of life."

The reason there is concern is cancer survivors may be left with physical, mental and sexual impairments from their treatment or may be concerned about being at high risk for having children who will develop cancer.

Medical File

Alternatives to prostate surgery

Elderly men who have difficulties urinating because of an enlarged prostate may be able to avoid surgery with two alternative procedures, doctors from the United States and Britain said yesterday.

Up to 60 per cent of men older than age 60 suffer the discomforting symptoms of a narrowed or blocked urethra, caused by an inflamed prostate, and thousands undergo expensive surgery to reduce the size of the gland.

Surgery can in turn cause impotence and other problems.

The prostate produces a fluid that is a major constituent of semen and when enlarged can cause either retention of urine or incontinence.

Doctors from the Veterans Administration Medical Centre in Minneapolis using a balloon catheter successfully widened the urinary channels without surgery in 66 per cent of 70 patients between ages 59 and 95. (Reuters)

Drug wins FDA approval

The Food and Drug Administration approved yesterday a new blood clot-dissolving drug for preventing permanent heart damage after a heart attack.

The new product, called anistreplase or emtiazine, is similar to two clot dissolvers already on the market: Tissue Plasminogen Activator (TPA) and streptokinase.

But emtiazine is designed to circulate in the bloodstream longer than the other drugs, allowing it to be given in a two- to five-minute injection instead of a one- to three-hour infusion.

"There was considerable reason to imagine that this population might be left with what you might call psychic scars," said Byrne.

"They had a close brush with death. It would not be unreasonable to suspect they might be left with psychosomatic difficulties."

But overall, the researchers found the cancer survivors were as likely as their siblings to get married and no more likely

overall to get divorced.

"They probably do and can look forward to the future with as much optimism as their brothers and sisters," said Byrne.

"There are rather few major problems with marriage and divorce in this group overall."

However, the researchers did find there were certain subgroups among the cancer survivors who did appear to have problems.

People who had cancer of the

Industry sources said it is expected that emtiazine, made by Smithkline Beecham of Philadelphia, will be cheaper than TPA, which costs about \$2,000 per dose, but more expensive than streptokinase, which runs about \$200 a dose. Emtiazine's exact price will not be set until distribution begins in mid-December, Smithkline officials said. (UPI)

Healer claims cancer, AIDS cure

The trial of a highly controversial healer is being followed with fascination by the medical community and millions of Canadians.

Gaston Naessens, a self-styled healer who says his serum can cure everything from rheumatism to cancer to AIDS, has spent the last three weeks on the chair of the accused in a courtroom in Sherbrooke, a small town east of Montreal.

Naessens is accused of criminal negligence in the death of one woman and in the case of bodily injuries caused to another. In both cases, he was attempting to heal them with a preparation he invented, called 714X.

Spect to help diagnose Alzheimer's

Doctors said Monday they can now look inside the brain without surgery and see the physical evidence of Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia and other mental disorders.

The new computer-enhanced X-ray technique, called Spect, could provide a relatively inexpensive and safe way of helping diagnose such disorders, researchers reported at the 75th Scientific Assembly of the Radiological Society of North America.

Surgeons rebuild skull

Quarter of victim's brain blown off

ST PAUL, Minnesota, Nov 29, (AP): Two plastic surgeons have restructured the skull of a young man from Bolivia who had a quarter of his brain blown away by a bullet five years ago.

"I can't believe it, it's incredible," Pacho Penalosa, 21, said Monday.

Penalosa, who flies home Friday, said he's eager to return to school.

In 1984, in his hometown of La Paz, Bolivia, Penalosa and his friend were looking at the friend's father's pistol when it fired. The bullet entered just above Penalosa's left eye and emerged from the back of his head.

He survived surgery, but his prognosis was grim, doctors told his mother, Elvira Rosales. Paralysis of his right side was expected, and she said she was told he wouldn't speak again. He was in a coma for two months.

But when he awoke, his efforts to speak, regain his strength and write with his left hand astonished his family and doctors. The major problem, which his doctors were incapable of treating, was that his brain was extremely vulnerable, covered on the left side by only a thin layer of scar tissue.

Slow and Pinney who performed the delicate reconstructive operation said Monday that the first step was to stretch Pacho's scalp so they would have a flap of skin to cover the bone graft with which they intended to cover his brain.

Using a device more familiar in breast reconstruction surgery, they installed an inflatable plastic pouch called a tissue expander at the base of his skull. At weekly intervals over several months, they injected the balloon with fluid, each time stretching the scalp a little further.

Give up Rushdie to have ties: Iran

NICOSIA, Nov 29, (Reuters): A hardline Iranian newspaper said Britain must hand over Salman Rushdie, the author sentenced to death for blasphemy by the late Ayatollah Khomeini, if it wanted better relations with Iran.

The editorial in Jomhuri Islami today followed remarks last week by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd who said he hoped Iran would use its influence to win the freedom of British hostages held in Lebanon.

Jomhuri Islami said Muslims would "preserve their revolutionary wrath" against enemies of Islam and would never forget what the paper called London's impudence over Rushdie's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses."

The book, which Muslims consider blasphemous, sparked protests by Muslims in Britain and other countries.

Apologise

The staunchly anti-Western paper said Britain should apologise to Muslims for publication of "The Satanic Verses," announce its readiness to hand over Rushdie and his publishers, and promise that similar acts offending Muslim sentiments would not be repeated.

There has been no official reaction from the Iranian government to Hurd's remarks.

Rushdie, an Indian-born Briton, has been in hiding under British/police protection since February when Iran's late revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, called on Muslims to kill him for blasphemy.

Reward offered

Two Iranian mullahs offered rewards of several million dollars for anyone who killed Rushdie and the Iranian government, condemning the novel's publication as a Western plot against Islam, broke diplomatic ties with Britain a month later.

Hurd said Britain did not want to isolate Iran but the future of relations between the two countries depended on its action on hostages.

No group has claimed responsibility for abducting the four Britons missing in Lebanon. They include Church of England envoy Terry Waite and teacher Brian Keenan, who also has Irish nationality.

Jomhuri Islami said if Hurd's remarks meant Britain wanted to make up for the past, they were welcome. But if Britain had other motives, it warned, "it should remember that Iran has tested London's good intentions and sincerity several times in the past with all resulting in disappointment."

Move in Africa

Muslims unite.

ABUJA, Nigeria, Nov 29, (Reuters): Muslims from nine African countries announced the founding of the Islam in Africa Organisation at a five-day conference which ended here yesterday.

The founding members come from Nigeria, where the group will be based, Gambia, Niger, Mauritania, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Libya and Tunisia.

Its objectives include building strong economic ties between African countries and with other parts of the Islamic world, promoting education and spreading the use of the Arabic language.

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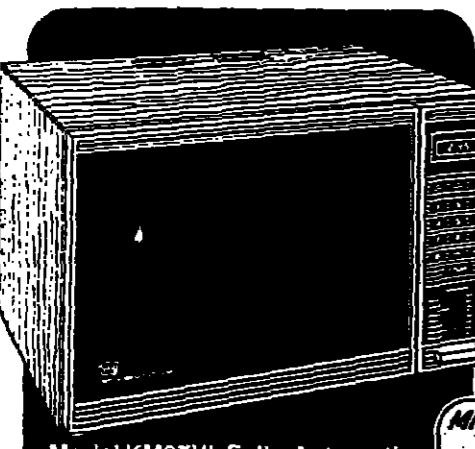
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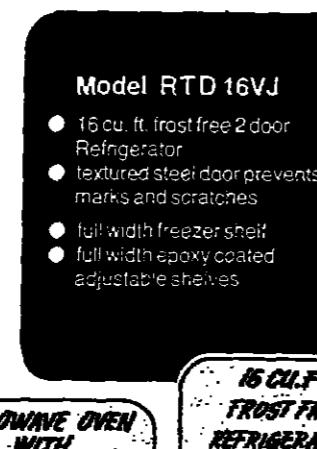


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A car and taxi lie crushed under part of the crane which collapsed on the street. (Reuter wirephoto)



The remains of two cars lie crushed under the wreckage of the crane. (Reuter wirephoto)

5 die as crane tips over

16th storey fall leaves 21 hurt

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov 29, (AP): A crane tipped over and plummeted from the 16th storey of a building under construction yesterday, flattening a school van, crushing several cars and smashing into an office building across the street. At least five people were killed, 21 injured and five left missing, authorities said.

Concrete and twisted steel rained on one of the busiest intersections in the financial district.

There were conflicting statements on what was happening before the crane fell. Fire chief Fred Postel said it was hoisting steel beams, but the general contractor said the crane was being repositioned from the 16th to 20th floors.

A piece of the crane at least three storeys long dangled from the side of the building under construction two hours after the 8:30 am (1630 GMT) accident.

The street was littered with flattened cars and a mangled motorcycle. Gas was cut off to the damaged 21-storey office building for fear of an explosion.

The fire chief said five people were listed as missing in the twisted steel and broken concrete.

Three hospitals reported receiving 21 victims,

four in serious condition. Most of the rest had minor injuries.

Debris rained down on a taxi driven by Issa Massarweh, who had two passengers at the time. The cab's back window was smashed.

A small fire broke out but was quickly extinguished.

In 1988-89, the construction site yielded close to one million artifacts dating to a Chinese settlement in the 1800s.

With its base on the ground, the 240-tonne crane, capable of lifting 17 tonnes, was being jacked up so workers could begin completing work on the top four floors of a 20-storey building.

Part of the crane's mast snapped at a point parallel with the 16th floor, and two sections of the boom above the mast began tumbling down, witnesses and officials said.

The sections, each 75-100 feet long, struck neighbouring buildings before crashing onto the street,

witnesses and officials said.

The coroner's office said yesterday's dead included two ironworkers, the crane operator, the school van driver and pedestrian. A child who normally would have been on the van was having his tonsils out.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Actress Claudette Colbert says her success at funny nice-girl roles during her career probably blocked her from saucier parts.

The 86-year-old star of the 1934 romantic comedy "It Happened One Night" and 61 other pictures told *Entertainment Weekly* magazine in its December-January issue that there's "nothing less interesting than a good-goody, and I played a lot of them."

"The difficulty was that they made money on my comedies and never thought of me as doing the other thing, which I could do. The best thing to play is a bitch, a bitch with a heart of gold," said Colbert, who resides in Barbados and New York.

Colbert, who will receive the Kennedy Centre Award from US President George Bush in a nationally televised broadcast on December 3, says she is surprised she has remained so well known world-wide.

"What is a thrill is that because of the screen I can go anywhere in the world. I'm very lucky, and they still recognise me. It's amazing. Maybe it's because of my funny-shaped face," she said. (AP)

KANSAS CITY, Kansas: A man known as "The Gentleman Bandit" because he promised to send a rose and said "have a nice day" after taking money pleaded guilty to robbing two savings and loans businesses.

Kevin Lee Newby, 34, entered the plea Monday in US district court. Newby originally had been charged with robbing five Kansas City area banks between April and August. The remaining three counts will be dismissed at the time of sentencing, according to a plea agreement. (AP)

NEW YORK: Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson says he likes clothes so much that he buys new clothes every day, according to an interview published in the December issue of *Vogue*.

Nuptial bed to be auctioned

The nuptial bed shared by Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio during their eight-month marriage will be auctioned off in Ho-Ho-Rus NJ this weekend.

His companion, Naomi Campbell, said it's true: "Mike buys new clothes every single day."

But while he may like the latest clothing fashions, he is not interested in one popular male fashion accessory — earrings.

"No, I would never do that," Tyson said. "I have opinions about the kind of thing. I'm a man, and I know what my opinions are about that kind of thing." (AP)

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Judge rebuked Homos laud

AUSTIN, Texas, Nov 29, (AP): Homosexual activists are appealing a state judicial panel's decision to censure a judge who said he gave a lighter sentence to a killer because the two victims were "queers."

Attorneys for district judge Jack Hampton of Dallas said they were disappointed that "the commission must have succumbed to pressure from the media and from unimportant special interest groups."

Members of the Dallas Gay Alliance say they will want Hampton to step down.

"I believe that it's certainly a step in the right direction," said William Waybourn, president of the group. "But judge Hampton remains on the bench. What is to happen now to gay men and lesbians who come into his courtroom?"

Golden horse riddle finally cracked

NEW YORK, Nov. 29, (AP): In 1984, a puzzle was offered to the public: Find a trove of buried gold. Now, an FBI agent and a prosecutor from Los Angeles have succeeded where thousands failed, solving the riddle of the Golden Horse. But the two will get no reward; the deadline for the puzzle passed with no claimants last May 26.

The puzzle was offered in 1984 as a story titled "Treasure: In search of the golden Horse," released as a story in book and videotape form and offering arcane and enigmatic clues to where the treasure lay buried.

Contestants had to find a statue of a buried horse made of 2.2 pounds (1 kilogramme) of

pure gold. It also contained a key to a safe deposit box containing a 20-year annuity for \$25,000 a year.

Many frustrated treasure hunters spent years, money and sweat on the puzzle. Some maintained the contest was a fraud.

Yesterday, Nick Boone and Anthony Castaneda, who spent more than five years working separately on the puzzle, told the Associated Press that they had solved the riddle.

The two partners deduced that the golden horse was buried in the western mountain state of Colorado, at a place called Tennessee Pass.

Boone said the clues to the elaborate puzzle finally came together on Nov. 1 and he and Castaneda flew to Tennessee Pass two days later to dig up whatever evidence of the stash remained.

Amid snow, cold and gathering darkness, they missed the spot by 18 inches (46 centimetres), Boone said.

Returning to Los Angeles, the collaborators realised that they should have had an instant camera with them to photograph the site and exactly align a landmark with a map from the

book on which the spot was marked with an "X."

They returned on Nov 18 and this time dug up a vial containing a parchment that began: "Dear seeker. Congratulations. Your travails are over," Boone said.

They also found the remains of the crate that had contained the horse and a coat the crate had been wrapped in, said Conlon.

Thomas Conlon, president of D.L. Blair, the promotion company that oversaw the contest, confirmed that Boone gave them "totally convincing proof that he found the exact location."

Blair has refused to divulge the solution.



First live liver donor

John Smith (right) appears at a news conference Nov 28 after a section of liver from his wife, Theresa, was transplanted into their daughter Alyssa. Dr. Cristoph Briesch (left) at the University of Chicago Hospital describes the surgery, performed for the first time in the US. (Reuter wirephoto)

Liver transplantee dies

An undated file picture of Aisling Barnett who died at 5:00 pm Nov 28. Aisling received a liver transplant after her husband made an appeal for a donor on TV. (Reuter wirephoto)

Doctors worry over transplant future

Mom's liver recipient girl undergoes another surgery

PITTSBURGH, Nov 29, (AP): Taking liver segments from healthy adults and putting them into dying children can ease a critical shortage but the gains cannot be justified if they come at the donors' expense, surgeons said.

"The major thing is what's the risk to the donor," said Dr. Barry Kahan, president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and director of transplantation at the University of Texas at Houston, who was monitoring the nation's first living donor liver transplant.

"Before there's a wide application of this, one would like to get an estimate of the hazard to the donor. Certainly a high mortality rate in the donor could not give one much enthusiasm for continuing this," Kahan said.

Surgeons at the University of Chicago medical centre on Monday became the first in the country to perform a living-donor liver transplant.

Teresa Smith, 29, a teacher from Schertz, Texas, had about a third of her liver removed and placed into her 21-month-old daughter, Alyssa, who had been waiting more than a year for a liver from a brain-dead donor.

Doctors who performed the dual operations predicted success for Alyssa, despite additional surgery yesterday to stop internal bleeding. Expectations also were high for Mrs. Smith, whose spleen was removed after the organ accidentally was damaged in surgery.

Dr. Robert Gordon of the University of Pittsburgh, the world's leading transplant centre, said

he hopes doctors are "a little more cautious about jumping into this" than they have been in the past with other medical advances.

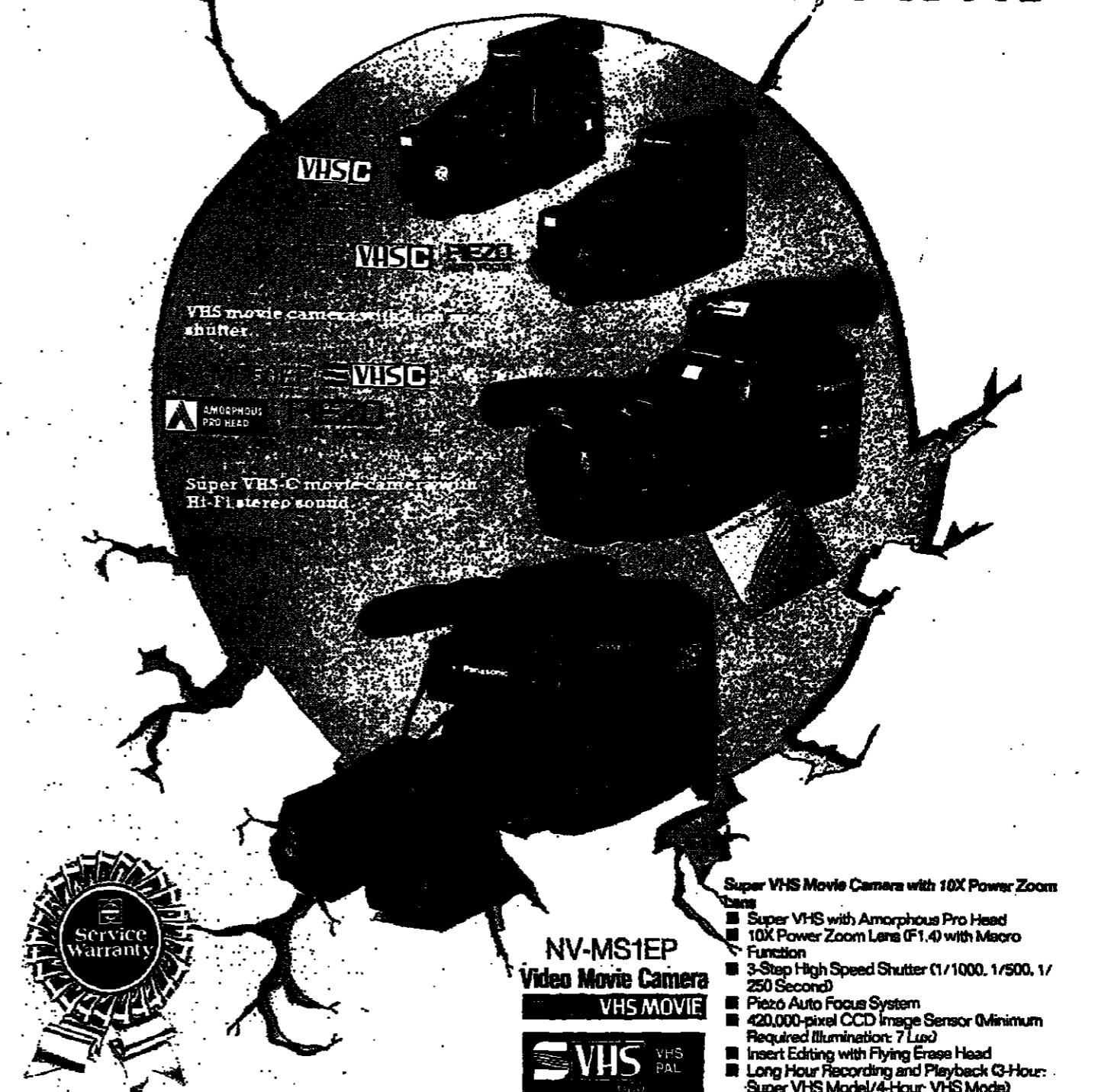
"It's one thing to just give new medicine," Gordon said. "It's another thing to subject healthy, living donors to a surgical procedure without giving careful consideration to it. If you do any harm, the negative impact would be enormous."

For Kahan, a 1 per cent mortality rate among donating parents, or one death in every 100 cases, would be acceptable provided the child had a 50 per cent or more chance of being alive five years after surgery.

The mortality rate for people donating one of their two kidneys to ill relatives is about 0.1 percent, or one death in every 1,000 cases.

National

Highly advanced technology ... breaks barrier of the decade of 90s



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National

Terror to fight terror in Peru

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): Government forces in Peru are using "terror to fight terror" and have killed 3,000 people in seven years of brutality that targets children and matches the leftist rebels, Amnesty International said today.

"Torture, mutilation, disappearance, murder and rape have become a hallmark of the armed forces' campaign against terrorism," the international human rights organization said in a report on Peru.

It said the armed forces have singled out children and young people as suspected supporters of the Maoist Shining Path movement, and hundreds have been murdered, tortured or simply disappeared.

The killing, torture and "disappearance" of hundreds of children and young people has been one cost of a strategy of "terror to fight terror" adopted by the armed forces in Peru, it said.

The organization said it was launching a campaign against human rights violations by Peru's armed forces, and it called on the government to investigate all alleged abuses and bring those responsible to justice.

In a 17-page report titled "caught between two fires," Amnesty claimed extensive and continuing massacres, mutilations and torture by opposition forces such as the Shining Path, or Sendero Luminoso.

As a result, it said, peasants in areas where the government has declared a state of emergency have been "caught between two fires," victims of massive abuse by both government forces and armed rebels.

It said security force abuses are growing.

"A climate of terror ... is spreading across much of the country," Amnesty International said. "Many people have relatives who have been killed in cold blood by both anti-government guerrillas and government forces."

Fresh battles erupt in Salvador capital

US embassy closed down

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 29, (Reuters): Fresh battles in San Salvador today forced the US embassy to close and left-wing rebels demanded the evacuation of leading hotels in embattled districts.

As the crash of exploding mortar shells resounded through the fashionable western part of the capital, security guards and Salvadoran Army officers at the bunker-like US mission said it had been closed until further notice due to the fighting.

A Western diplomat said there was shooting throughout Escalón, San Benito and Lomas de San Francisco where most of the US personnel live.



Passers-by observe the corpse of one of the alleged assassins of Jose Francisco Guerrero, ex-president of El Salvador Supreme Court who was killed yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

"It's not safe ... to drive the streets to go to work."

Radio Venceremos, the radio station of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), meanwhile called for the evacuation of three leading hotels in the area — the Sheraton, the Hotel Terraza, and the Presidente.

A soundman for the US-based Spanish-language television station Univision was hit by a bullet in the shoulder while covering battles in Escalón, where the guerrillas had seized parts of the Sheraton last Tuesday.

Reuter photographer Malcolm Linton said he saw an armoured personnel carrier that had been blown up early yesterday in an apparent guerrilla ambush about four blocks from the Sheraton.

The bodies of five dead soldiers lay on the street nearby and guerrillas picked through their pockets, searching for ammunition and valuables.

It was not immediately clear if the fighting signalled the resumption of a major guerrilla offensive on the capital that began on Nov 11 and appeared to have ended when the rebels withdrew on Nov 22.

The rebels said on their clandestine radio today they had attacked the headquarters of the joint chiefs of staff with mortars. But officers on the scene said none had fallen in the compound, which also houses the Defence Ministry.

Residents of the zone, in the capital's western sector said they heard several loud explosions near the fortified complex between 2 am and 3 am (0900-1000 GMT).

Rebels fired rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles at the Public Security Academy in the western suburb of Merito. Col Rigoberto Soto, director of the academy, said the attack was repelled. He said his troops suffered no casualties but that a few guerrillas appeared to have been wounded.

Fighting continued to be heavy after daylight on the edge of the affluent Escalón neighbourhood, which reaches to the slopes of the San Salvador volcano, a guerrilla stronghold.

Fighting was heavy at times before dawn along the tree-lined streets of San Benito, a wealthy residential district where US Ambassador William Walker has his official residence. Guerrillas burned a mansion just blocks from Walker's house. It was not immediately known whether Walker was home at the time.

Guerrillas and soldiers of the US-supported, rightist government also exchanged fire in Guadalupe, south of the chiefs of staff, where three light tanks were positioned across the street from a movie theatre.

Helicopters and O-2 spotter aircraft fired machine-guns and rockets at suspected guerrilla positions west and south of the capital for several hours before dawn.

■ Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega says his government must be on the "side of the people" not the administration of El Salvador, which has broken diplomatic relations with Nicaragua.

"The problem is not whether the plane, loaded with missiles which crashed, got there (El Salvador)," Ortega told a group of church leaders.

Nicaraguan pilot Mauricio Quiroz shows to reporters in Managua his pilot license denying that he is the man reported dead in El Salvador after a plane flying arms to rebels crashed last week.

Panama nabs two politicians

PANAMA CITY, Nov 29, (AP): Two opposition politicians were arrested at the airport on their return from the United States and authorities refused yesterday to say where they were, another opposition leader said.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, said diplomats who were at the airport watched authorities detain his party's vice-president, Guillermo Cochez, and Francisco Artola, vice-president of the Arnulfista Party.

US to probe Bogota jet blast

BOGOTA, Nov 29, (AP): Authorities say the flight recorder from a Colombian jetliner that exploded in the air will be sent to the United States for analysis.

Colombian authorities found the flight recorder under one of the "wrecked" engines of an Avianca Airlines Boeing 727 that blew up on Monday, minutes after taking off from Bogota's El Dorado airport.

The assistant director of the Civil Air Authority, Col. Edgar Leimes, said that experts had determined that an explosion had ripped through the plane, but don't know what caused the blast.

He said in a radio interview that no trace of an explosive device had been found in the plane's wreckage.

The flight recorder contains such data as air speed, altitude and engine readings from the time of the crash.

Colombia's Civil Air Authority planned to send the instrument, along with the airplane pilot's conversation recorder, to Washington, DC, for analysis by the US Federal Aviation Administration, a spokesman for the agency said.

"The two instruments could be sent as soon as possible," said the spokeswoman, Astrid Gonzalez.

She said authorities hoped the two instruments might provide clues as to what caused the explosion on flight 203 as the plane flew over the grassy hills just south of Bogota on its way to the city of Cali.

Speculation about the cause of the blast has run the gamut from a terrorist bomb to pilot error to a crack in the plane's fuselage.

Gonzalez called such speculation by officials and the news media "irresponsible" and said investigators were forbidden from making statements about the crash.

"I think it's pure speculation to say that we have ruled out anything at this point," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview. "We still don't have

some of the basic data from the flight. We need to obtain the results of analysis before we confirm or deny anything."

Gonzalez said that while the FAA reviewed flight data, eight officials would carry on an investigation of the plane's wreckage in Bogota.

The Colombian team includes experts from the Civil Air Authority, the pilot's association and Avianca. They are to be assisted by a group of Boeing experts, who arrived in Bogota yesterday from the United States.

"I think we can finish the investigation in about 20 days," Gonzalez said.



Salvadoran Rambo



Collier de Mello



Lula da Silva

Brazil polls 2nd round

Wooing the poor

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 29, (Reuters): The official campaign for the decisive second round of Brazil's presidential election opened yesterday with both candidates battling to win the votes of the poor masses.

The winner will inherit the nation's worst economic crisis this century, but economists say neither Fernando Collor de Mello nor Inacio Lula da Silva has proposed a solid plan to deal with huge debts and runaway inflation.

Collor, 40, a well-groomed populist from a rich political family, and Lula, 44, a former factory worker who lost a finger on the assembly line, will be vying for votes with 20 minutes' television time each day for the next two weeks.

In their television appearances both candidates tried to portray themselves as true representatives of the poor and spent virtually no time outlining their plans for government.

"The candidates are competing for who can make the most appealing list of promises ... neither says how he plans to finance and execute these promises," economist Joaquim Eloy Toledo of Sao Paulo University told Reuters.

Lula has promised to raise the monthly minimum wage to \$200 from \$80. Collor has said he would raise it to \$370 by 1994.

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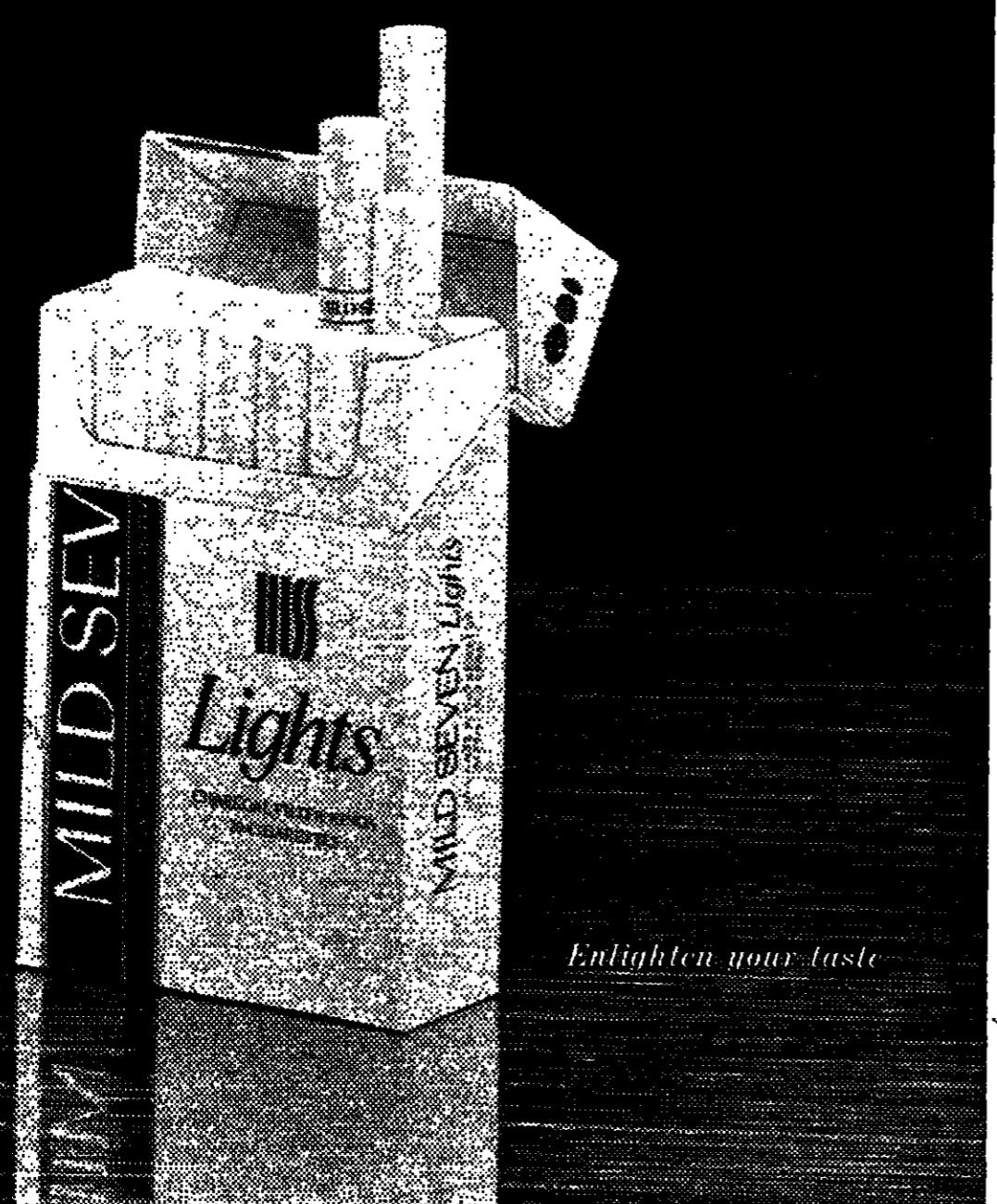
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INTERNATIONAL



American artist Richard Ewen unveils his portrait of Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at Claridges in London. The picture depicts Thatcher's changing moods in five facets using the artist's heads in motion technique. (Reuter wirephoto)



Conservative Member of Parliament, Sir Anthony Meyer, who is set to challenge Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the party leadership. (Reuter wirephoto)

Maggie supporters demand she stay

Commons question time

Thatcher under siege

LONDON, Nov 29, (Reuter): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, facing the first test of her 14-year leadership of Britain's ruling Conservative Party, was loudly cheered in Parliament yesterday as she agreed with a call to stay in office.

Party member Sir Anthony Meyer earlier told reporters he would press on with a challenge to Thatcher despite her declaration that she planned to carry on well into the 1990's.

Thatcher was told by little-known Conservative politician Michael Cartiss: "My constituents and the people of this country demand that you stay."

To loud cheering from government benches and boos of derision from the opposition Labour Party, the prime minister replied: "I am grateful to you. I am quite sure both you and your constituents are quite right."

Cartiss said he was speaking out after being named in a radio programme as someone likely to vote against Thatcher.

In a television interview on Monday, Thatcher said the unprecedented challenge to her authority was bad for the party and bad for the country.

But she defended the right of

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): Question time, parliament's most popular event, went on live television yesterday, giving viewers a closeup of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher under verbal siege.

For a fast-moving 15 minutes, Mrs. Thatcher fielded questions on eastern Europe, working mothers, her talks with US President George Bush, the auto industry, Northern Ireland, homeless youth, the national water supply and prospects for extending her 10-year spell in office.

The cut and thrust was less than savage — no honorable member was expelled for using unparliamentary language, and Mrs. Thatcher didn't have to do much shouting.

It was historic nonetheless, being the first question time starring Mrs. Thatcher since the cameras began rolling in the House of Commons a week ago — and her first such exchange since declaring that any talk of her retirement was premature.

Question time is a twice-weekly fixture with a code and style all its own.

Members hand in their questions ahead of time, then try to catch the eye of the gowned, bewigged speaker who calls on questioners at random, trying to balance pro-and-anti-government questions.

party members to challenge her and indicated she was happy to serve as prime minister well past the next general election, due by mid-1992.

Meyer declared yesterday that nothing Thatcher said in the interview had persuaded him to change his mind. "I am going ahead," he told reporters.

During the rumbustious Commons question time, which lasts for 15 minutes and takes place twice a week, Thatcher was subjected to further catcalls from opposition benches when she referred to herself as "we" — a mannerism used in Britain by

and frequent Thatcher critic, Meyer concedes he has no chance of victory. But he says a token challenge should be mounted to reveal the depth of party dissatisfaction with her autocratic style and slumping popularity.

Question Elizabeth.

A 69-year-old liberal maverick and frequent Thatcher critic, Meyer concedes he has no chance of victory. But he says a token challenge should be mounted to reveal the depth of party dissatisfaction with her autocratic style and slumping popularity.

Up bobbed Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labour Party, grilling Mrs. Thatcher on an official report that the government sold off an ailing state-owned auto maker too cheaply.

Mrs. Thatcher replied that considering the company had hardly ever made a profit in recent years, selling it was "a major achievement."

The Conservatives usually ask the friendly questions, the opposition lawmakers ask the tough ones.

3 Hezb men get jail in Madrid

MADRID, Spain, Nov 29, (AP): A judge ordered three men imprisoned yesterday pending further investigation leading to charges of smuggling 220 kilos (440 pounds) of plastic explosives into Spain for use, according to police, in international terrorist attacks.

A source close to the investigation said judge Carlos Bueno ordered the release without charges of the fourth of the original eight men arrested Friday. The judge had not yet questioned the four others.

Police believe the three men ordered to prison are members of Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim extremist organisation based in Lebanon.

But they would not provide details linking the five others — the released man, identified as a Sudanese, and four Iraqis — to Hezbollah or to the explosives.

Hezbollah, whose name means "Party of God" in Arabic, has denied any connection with the men arrested in Spain.

The three men ordered to prison were identified by their passports as Ali Mohammed Sabaiti, 31, of Lebanon, Abbas Mohammed Hallan, 23, of Kuwait and Hassan Hassan Rahd, 24, of Brazil.

Two of the three were arrested in the Mediterranean port of Valencia, where police found the plastic explosives, 258 French-made detonators and four hand grenades hidden in cans of chickpea puree and fig jam imported from Lebanon.

Police identified the explosive as composition 4, a military explosive made by the US Army. A US Army explosives expert from Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, said the amount of composition 4 discovered in Valencia would be powerful enough to level a city block.

Shipment

The shipment of 1,600 cartons of canned goods arrived in Valencia Nov 12 aboard a cargo ship that makes a regular, 10-day circuit of Mediterranean ports including Beirut. The explosives were sealed in cans that bore the brand of the Societe Libanaise Des Conserver Modernes in Chataura, Lebanon.

The police said the shipment was addressed to the Al Asfar Import Export Co. in Valencia, operated by the three men ordered to prison.

Sabaiti was arrested in Madrid, where the source said police also found manuals describing how to build bombs and make explosives.

The five others were also arrested in Madrid, police said.

A court official said judge Bueno had questioned only one of the eight, Sabaiti.

Under Spanish law, the judge had until the end of the day to decide whether to release the suspect or order them to prison pending further investigation and formal charges.

Interrogation

Sabaiti told the judge he sympathised with Hezbollah but denied being a member of the group, said the official, who was present during the interrogation.

Sabaiti was arrested in his Madrid apartment along with the other four men.

Outside the courthouse, three people who would only identify themselves as friends of the five men arrested in Madrid with Sabaiti, said they were innocent.

They said four of the five were registered as political refugees with the Spanish government and that all five have lived in Spain for several years without ever having been in trouble with the police.

Nato members upgrade arms

Fall in new purchase

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): The cost of new weapons systems and decreasing defence budgets are forcing more countries, including a number within Nato, to upgrade their armoured vehicles rather than buy new ones, the authors of a Jane's yearbook said today.

Nato countries are concentrating their upgrading on improving fire control systems and providing an enhanced night vision capability, said the authors of the 1989-1990 edition of "Jane's armoured fighting vehicle systems."

"Few countries are at present installing new armament which is required to penetrate the latest Soviet MBTs (main battle tanks) or to install more armour to increase their battlefield survivability," wrote Christopher Foss and Tony Cullen.

They said the installation of a larger calibre gun and additional armour would in most cases overload the vehicles' suspension and reduce the power-to-weight ratio.

Nato's next tank gun is likely to have a calibre of 140 mm and will be fed by an automatic loader which will enable the crew

Belfast bombs defused

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Nov 29, (AP): The army yesterday defused two bombs at Short Brothers' aircraft factory where three bombs went off Monday night, police said.

The bombs were found under mobile fuel tanks and each contained 5 pounds (2.2 kilogramme) of Czechoslovak-made Semtex explosives, police said.

"They could have had serious consequences," said a spokesman, who requested anonymity.

Two bombs planted near a Shorts 330 aircraft exploded Monday, causing £4 million (\$6 million) in damages, the spokesman said. A third bomb damaged an entrance gate at the Canadian-owned complex in northeast Belfast.

No one was injured, police said.

Britain's domestic Press Association news agency said the outlawed Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility.

Police said an anonymous woman caller telephoned a warning 20 minutes before the explosions and said there were five bombs.

The IRA claimed the action in both areas, they said, in the latter because of a spinoff from the Star Wars programme.

FOR WOMEN



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Nato pledges to keep up guard, welcomes East bloc changes

No unilateral arms cut that could undermine CFE accord

BRUSSELS, Nov 29. (AP): Despite the rapid changes in Eastern Europe, Nato defence ministers today pledged not to make any unilateral arms cuts that might hurt prospects for an agreement on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

The ministers said in a statement after two days of talks at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation that they welcomed the changes in the East. But they also issued a word of caution.

"A time of rapid political change presents the West with new opportunities, although the resulting uncertainty also carries potential risks," they said.

"Our defence requirements must continue to be assessed against the realities of Warsaw Pact military capabilities," they said.

They noted that the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact already had begun unilateral reductions in conventional, or non-nuclear, arms.

But the ministers cautioned, "we cannot ignore the fact that, even after completion of these reductions, the Warsaw Pact will retain well-equipped forces which substantially outnumber those of the West."

As a result, the statement said the ministers would take a "pragmatic, step-by-step approach" to changes in Eastern Europe.

And, they renewed their "determination not to make any unilateral reductions that could risk undermining the prospect of reaching a CFE accord."

The CFE talks on reducing Conventional Forces in Europe are under way in Vienna, Austria, between negotiators for the Warsaw Pact and Nato. Officials expect an agreement on reducing tanks and other hardware in the second half of next year.

Yesterday, US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said the United States will make no major cuts in the number of its troops in

Europe without conducting a survey of its Nato partners, officials said.

Cheney assured the other Nato defence ministers the United States "intends to stay here as long as the allies want." British Defence Secretary Tom King said after the first days of talks at Nato headquarters.

The issue of US troops in Europe has gained new significance in recent days following reports of an austerity study that calls for reducing US military expenditures in the first half of the 1990s.

The United States now has 305,000 troops in Europe, most of them in West Germany.

Talks of US troop cuts in Europe has prompted concerns that other Western nations might also lower their defence spending even before a conventional arms and troops deal is reached.

Nato must maintain "an adequate and effective defence," King said.

"That is our warning," he added. "We think it is a sensible warning. We are in an incredibly volatile, unstable situation."

Norwegian Gen. Vigdik Eide, head of Nato's panel of military commanders, concurred. "Support for defence efforts in the future will be problematic because of the perception of the threat as already gone," he said.

Cheney used the Nato meeting to stifle any fears that the events in Eastern Europe will lessen the US commitment to the defence of Europe.

"I take the position that the United States will not change its stance in the current (conventional arms) negotiations," West German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said during a break in yesterday's talks.

In the conventional forces reduction talks, Washington wants the Soviet Union and the United States to trim their forces in Europe to

275,000 soldiers each. That would mean a cutback of 300,000 Soviet and 30,000 US troops.

The austerity study by the US Defence Department covers the period from 1992-1995.

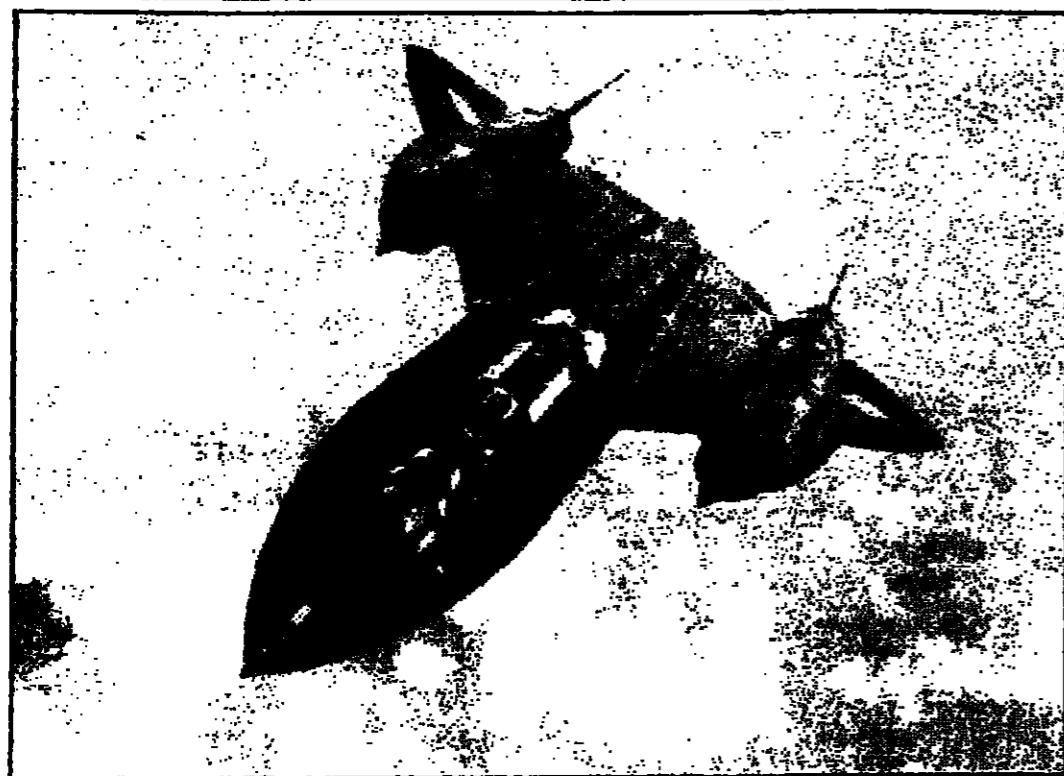
Any cuts resulting from that study "would be considered in the Nato context and in full consultation with our allies," said a senior US official, who asked not to be identified.

US officials said the cuts under study are based on assumptions of a conventional arms accord, a superpower deal on long-range nuclear missiles, no major military conflicts in the Third World and continued political reforms in Eastern Europe.

Officials said no troops would be pulled out of Europe in the 1990 fiscal year, which began Oct 1, except for those reduced because of the 1987 superpower treaty on medium-range nuclear missiles.



Cheney gestures during a news conference. (Reuter wirephoto)



Blackbird to be retired

The United States has decided to retire the secrecy-shrouded SR-71 "Blackbird" reconnaissance jet, the superstar of winged espionage. Funding to phase out the spy plane, was contained in a \$286 billion

fiscal 1990 defence bill that cut Pentagon purchasing power for the fifth straight year. The "Blackbird" is shown in 1987 photos. (Reuter wirephoto)

Study on Soviet-US military crises

Red army response slow

WASHINGTON, Nov 29. (UPI): A classified study done for Defence Secretary Richard Cheney concludes that the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies for several years have been incapable of launching a quick attack against the West, the Washington Post reported today.

But the same 30-page Pentagon study revealed that during the Soviet "Prague spring" invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, Moscow put its battlefield nuclear rocket forces on a 10-minute alert fearing possible Western intervention.

The study on "lessons learned" from US-Soviet military crises was prepared before the current pro-democracy movement erupted in Eastern Europe, the Post said. The conclusions

about Soviet military reaction time represents a consensus of opinion by the joint chiefs of staff, Central Intelligence Agency and Defence Intelligence Agency.

The study made available to the newspaper depicts as outdated two scenarios for war in Europe that drove the West to keep its forces at a high level of readiness over the past decade. One scenario had the Soviet Union invading with little advance preparation. A second scenario was for a Soviet attack after only two weeks of mobilisation.

In the most likely circumstances for a Soviet attack, the study says, "the intelligence community believes we would have some 33 to 44 days of warning time."

Swiss bill against drug money

BERN, Nov 29. (AP): The lower house of the Swiss Parliament has unanimously passed a bill to make money-laundering a crime.

The proposed legislation, which if approved by the upper house would become law by mid-1990, is aimed at increasing the powers of the authorities against organised crime's use of Swiss banks to conceal its transactions.

The new law would make premeditated money-laundering a crime, punishable by fines of up to one million Swiss francs and prison terms of up to five years for the worst violations.

But the Parliament rejected by 124 to 64 votes an amendment to make "negligent" money-laundering a criminal offence on the grounds that it would have unfairly burdened bank and postal employees.

Radio Islam throttled

STOCKHOLM, Nov 29. (P): The Swedish local radio board has suspended the broadcasting licence of an Islamic radio station following the conviction of its owner on charges of defaming Jews.

The decision was taken yesterday after Radio Islam's owner and leading broadcaster, Ahmed Rami, was sentenced to six months in prison for airing "disparaging and deeply offending" remarks about Jews and the Jewish religion on his local station.

A district court reached its verdict two weeks ago after an eight-week trial during which the prosecution called in distinguished clergymen to argue that Rami's programmes were anti-Semitic.

Chem arms accord likely

Soviets hopeful of inspection

GENEVA, Nov 29. (Reuter): A UN-sponsored disarmament body should be able to agree by the end of January on how to conduct inspections to ensure observance of an international treaty banning chemical weapons, a Soviet negotiator has brought a treaty within reach.

Batsanov said the current three-week session would still have to discuss a range of verification measures going beyond challenge inspections.

The negotiations would be endangered, however, if the United States sought to produce even a small amount of chemical weapons after a convention took effect, he said.

Speaking a day after two sets of talks on the subject resumed, bilaterally with a US team and multilaterally in the conference on disarmament's chemical weapons committee, he said he believed a treaty was possible by the end of 1990.

The question of verifying that countries do not cheat has been the thorniest in the negotiations and is still not resolved. But Batsanov said the chemical weapons committee should be able to agree soon on an inspections protocol.

"Hopefully we will be able to bring (it) to conclusion so as to include it in January in the draft convention," he said.

This agreement would describe what foreign inspectors would be allowed to do and see when challenging a country at short notice to prove they were not producing or storing poison gas.

The principle of on-site

verification is being used in the 1987 US-Soviet intermediate range nuclear weapons treaty and delegates say its acceptance for chemical weapons has brought a treaty within reach.

Batsanov said the current three-week session would still have to discuss a range of verification measures going beyond challenge inspections.

The negotiations would be endangered, however, if the United States sought to produce even a small amount of chemical weapons after a convention took effect, he said.

"If anyone ... now comes up with a proposal to allow production of chemical weapons after the convention enters into force, it would be a very serious and dangerous blow to the negotiations."

US negotiators were not immediately available for comment.

Officials in Washington have said that the US wants to retain two per cent of its chemical weapons, and has the right to keep making these weapons, until all nations capable of producing chemical weapons have signed the treaty — Even if this is after the treaty comes into force.

"Hopefully we will be able to bring (it) to conclusion so as to include it in January in the draft convention," he said.

Batsanov said US had not formally presented any proposal to this effect.

The US position stems from its desire to be able to deter maverick states from producing or using poison gas.

Soviets rap Kohl 'call for union'

MOSCOW, Nov 29. (Reuter): The Soviet Union today condemned a call by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for a federation of East and West Germany, accusing him of trying to split East Germans.

"We can see clearly an attempt to push the recently-started process of reunification in GDR (East Germany) in a nationalist direction, to pursue the route and scenario of reform," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuri Gromitskikh said.

He said Kohl had acted without considering the feelings of other European countries, especially East Germany, noting that East Berlin's leaders had said reunification was not on their political agenda.

"It is completely clear that such actions do not correspond in any way to the Helsinki principles ... and have nothing in common with universally adopted norms of relations between sovereign states," Gromitskikh told a regular news conference.

Kohl, in a speech to Parliament yesterday, outlined a 10-point German unity programme and offered economic support to East Berlin in Bonn's boldest response yet to political changes sweeping through East Germany.

Gromitskikh said Kohl was "swimming against the tide of opinion from other European states — including the Soviet Union — which did not want to change the post-World War II borders."

"One should not forget that there are dozens of other states in Europe which are intensely interested in preserving stability but not in the destruction of territorial political structures, with all resulting dangerous consequences for the peaceful future of European peoples," Gromitskikh said.

Gromitskikh also accused Kohl of interfering in East Germany's internal affairs by asking economic aid contingent on democratic reform.

"The further development of relations with the GDR (East Germany) is being made directly dependent on fulfilment of a number of conditions, including demands to change the political and social system," he said of Kohl's speech.

Asked whether he was saying Moscow was flatly opposed to German reunification, Gromitskikh said the division of Germany could be resolved only as part of a broader process of overhauling the division of Europe.

His words indicated that while the Kremlin was willing to talk about dissolving military blocs, it had no wish to see single Warsaw Pact countries — especially Moscow's strategic ally East Germany — slip out of the social fabric and cause a demographic crisis, according to the country's leading population expert.

The Communist Party daily *Neses* Deutschland today said Professor Gunter Winkler had told East Germany's first-ever conference on demographic trends that most of those who had left were under the age of 40.

About 3.4 million people have left East Germany in the 40 years since it was founded, ripping holes in the social fabric and causing a demographic crisis, according to the country's leading population expert.

Asked whether he was saying Moscow was flatly opposed to German reunification, Gromitskikh said the division of Germany could be resolved only as part of a broader process of overhauling the division of Europe.

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Prague promises free elections within a year

Changes in polls law will be made

PRAGUE, Nov 29. (Agencies): A senior Communist official today promised free elections, possibly within 12 months, as the Czechoslovak parliament prepared to abolish the party's 40-year-old monopoly of power.

"Free and democratic elections...will be held on a date which will be declared by the federal assembly," Politburo member Vasil Mohorita told a news conference.

Mohorita said the government would prepare changes in election law so that a national poll would reflect popular expectations. Asked how

soon elections could be held, he replied: "I think they are possible within 12 months."

The 350-member assembly was to vote at a historic session in the afternoon on scrapping the constitutional guarantee of the Communist Party's leading role in society.

After party chief Karel Urbanek said yesterday that the communists had no choice but to give up their dominance, it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that the required two-thirds majority would vote in favour.

The assembly, housed in a forbidding mass of grey concrete and steel, has been a rubber stamp tool of communist control for the past 40 years apart from the brief "Prague Spring" liberalisation of 1968.

Mohorita declined to state explicitly that the party would give up power if defeated in the election. But he implied in his remarks that the communists would respect the outcome of the poll.

"As the Communist Party we will compete for as many seats as possible, but I can hardly tell you now whether it will be a majority or a minority."

Asked whether the party would give up the key defence and interior ministries, Mohorita said: "The new government will reflect the result of the election."

Urbanek, giving way under the pressure of 11 straight days of protests and strikes involving millions of citizens, warned party activists that they could lose an election.

"If we do not convince the party members and the people in this country that we are able to change ourselves and realise our aims in the framework of democracy, then we will lose," Urbanek warned.

Urbanek also said the party had to reassess events leading to the Warsaw Pact reforms that smashed the 1968 reforms.

It was the first time the party leadership had suggested that the official reason for the invasion—to crush a counter-revolution—was unsustainable.

But he rejected demands by the opposition movement, Civic Forum for dissolution of the party's paramilitary force and its nation-wide cells, the sale of party buildings and the resignation of communist directors of state enterprises.

Civic Forum has warned that if a new government promised by Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec did not come up with an adequate programme for free elections and freedom of the press, speech and religion by the end of the year, it would force him out of office.

The opposition movement has also demanded the resignation by Dec 10 of President Gustav Husak, who helped plan the 1968 invasion. At 76, Husak is physically frail but mentally alert.

Strike committees across the country have been told by Civic Forum to remain vigilant, ready bring the workers out again if the authorities do not make good their pledges to restore democracy.

Slovenia protest

Move to halt rally

BELGRADE, Nov 29. (AP): Slovenia police imposed emergency measures today in a bid to prevent demonstrators from the Republic of Serbia from holding a rally in Slovenia.

Protest organisers told the Associated Press by telephone they were determined to proceed with the Dec 1 rally despite the Slovenian measures.

A police statement carried by the state Tass news agency said all vehicles carrying Serbian demonstrators to the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana, where the rally is scheduled to be held, would be stopped.

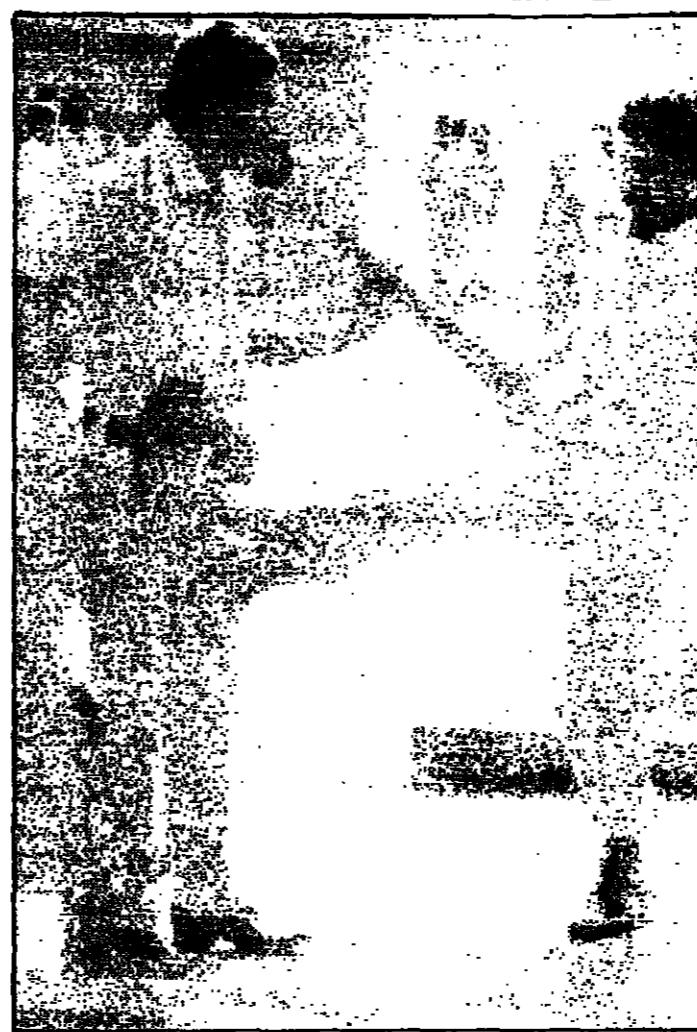
Another statement by the federal police warned that all citizens were "obliged to respect and carry out measures imposed by state organs."

"Contravention of [law] could have serious consequences for public order," the federal police statement said.

Slovenian authorities previously have implied they would use force against demonstrators.

The alarm of officials (after

Coujuangco's return) actually



'Don't do it again'

Paramilitary police with automatic rifles patrolled streets of Dhaka today during a strike called by the opposition to force the resignation of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

Police said 1,000 paramilitary reinforcements joined 4,000 already in the Bangladeshi capital as the 12-hour stoppage called by the Awami League got underway.

Most shops and factories were closed.

Picture shows a policeman kicking a teenager caught while trying to damage vehicles during the strike. (Reuter wirephoto)

Exposed: Cory govt ineptness

Coujuangco return

MANILA, (AP): Like a jack-in-the-box, President Corazon Aquino's exiled cousin popped up in the Philippines last week. His surprise return has triggered charges of mismanagement and ineptness in the government, which officially banished him.

Business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Coujuangco, 54, who left the country in 1986 aboard the same plane that ousted ruler Ferdinand Marcos into exile, returned secretly last Friday with a passport issued by the Philippine consulate in Los Angeles.

Coujuangco said he returned to clear his name of charges that he helped Marcos steal billions of dollars.

The incident has led to calls for Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus to resign and for a shake-up in the Department of Foreign Affairs, which includes many employees appointed by Marcos' brother-in-law, Benjamín "Kokoy" Romualdez.

Political commentators also say the Coujuangco affair raises questions about the government's ability to develop and enforce policy.

"What's wrong with this... operation we call a government is that none of the chiefs get fired if they spoil the broth," wrote columnist Max Soliven in the Philippine Star newspaper.

"As a result, the citizens and customers get food poisoning while nobody gets dumped for it," Soliven said.

Coujuangco had never been formally banished from the country. But his passport and those of the Marcos family were cancelled in 1986, and there had been an informal understanding within the Aquino administration that he could not come home.

"The fuss seems to be all because the government did not want Coujuangco back and yet he managed to get back," Rev. Joaquin Bernas, a university president and former Aquino adviser, wrote in the Manila Chronicle. "He managed to make the government look foolish."

Aquino has barred the Marcos family from returning and refuses to allow the remains of the former president, who died Sept 28 in Hawaii, to be buried here. Aquino has said their return would jeopardise national security, but critics claim the ban has no legal basis.

The alarm of officials (after Coujuangco's return) actually

Lanka district vacated

Indians leave

COLOMBO, Nov 29. (Reuter): Indian troops pulled out from a second Sri Lankan district today under a phased withdrawal plan, residents said.

Residents of Batticaloa, 240 km (150 miles) east of Colombo, said 400 to 500 trucks loaded with men and equipment left the town early in the morning.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 Indian troops left Ampara district in the eastern province on Oct 24 in the first stage of the withdrawal.

New Delhi has promised to recall by next month all or most of the remaining 30,000 troops sent to Sri Lanka in July 1987 to help crush a Tamil separatist rebellion.

The remaining Indians are in Trincomalee in the east and in the northern region. Military sources said about 3,000 soldiers were due to leave for home today from Trincomalee port.

The Batticaloa resident said people feared an eruption of violence similar to events in Ampara after the Indians left.

NEWS IN BRIEF

I am God's pencil: Mother Teresa: Mother Teresa, describing her work to help the poor, says she is like a pencil and God is the author.

"I don't claim anything of the work," she said in the December 4 issue of Time Magazine. "I am like a little pencil in his hand. That is all. He does the thinking. He does the writing. The pencil has nothing to do with it."

Mother Teresa, winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace prize for her work in India, also said she sees poverty has a kind of richness and that she finds "the rich much poorer. Sometimes they are more lonely inside. They are not satisfied."

School bus drivers indicted: Officials accused 16 drivers of school buses yesterday of delivering narcotics to a variety of customers between trips taking children to and from school.

The drivers were among 29 people indicted on drug charges following a 15-month investigation.

Officials said some of the bus drivers had street gang connections and sold narcotics along their regular routes between their delivery and pickup duties. (Reuter)

New international postal rates: The Universal Postal Congress yesterday announced a new system of international rates that favours books and periodicals over letters and postcards.

The rates will go into effect in 1991, said Thomas E. Leavay, assistant US Postmaster General for International Affairs.

Under the new two-tier system, countries exchanging more than 150 metric tonnes of cards and letters a year will pay 24.84 gold francs (about \$9.95 US) a kilogramme (2.2 pounds), instead of the former eight gold francs (\$5.20). (AP)

European environment agency: The European Environment Agency got the go-ahead late yesterday after environment ministers from the 12 European Economic Community nations agreed on the details.

The agency should be functional by January 1991 if it gets rapid and final approval from the European parliament, according to Carlo Ripa Di Meana, the EEC's commissioner for the environment.

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Prize No. 5	KD. 1500 CASH	Coupon No. 1982
Prize No. 6	KD. 1000 CASH	Coupon No. 1895
Prize No. 7	KD. 750 CASH	Coupon No. 1964

Prize No. 8	Coupon No. 2171
Prize No. 9	Coupon No. 2105
Prize No. 10	Coupon No. 2508
Prize No. 11	Coupon No. 2155
Prize No. 12	Coupon No. 2324
Prize No. 13	Coupon No. 2373
Prize No. 14	Coupon No. 2556
Prize No. 15	Coupon No. 2620
Prize No. 16	Coupon No. 2085
Prize No. 17	Coupon No. 2003
Prize No. 18	Coupon No. 2609
Prize No. 19	Coupon No. 2603
Prize No. 20	Coupon No. 2424
Prize No. 21	Coupon No. 2567
Prize No. 22	Coupon No. 1979
Prize No. 23	Coupon No. 2115
Prize No. 24	Coupon No. 2629
Prize No. 25	Coupon No. 2540
Prize No. 26	Coupon No. 2381
Prize No. 27	Coupon No. 2594
Prize No. 28	Coupon No. 2493
Prize No. 29	Coupon No. 2248
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Four-year tenure for public officials

272 duplications of functions

A LAW to limit the holding of a leading post in the public sector to four years has been issued by the Council of Ministers, but ministers were excluded.

The Undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission, Abdul Aziz Al Zaben, said that the law was considered a first step in carrying out administrative development in the public sector.

He said that administrative development will begin with the top officials and continue down to the ordinary employees.

The government set up a higher committee headed by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister in 1984 to develop the administrative staff. The committee presented its final report in 1986, and included recommendations and programs to develop the administrative staff.

Zaben said that decisions taken to develop the civil servants were being implemented, but the development procedures were being carried out gradually. The main aim of the development of administrative staff was to improve the performance of work at the government sector, he said.

The development was meant to reconsider the work systems, promotions, appointment policies and methods of evaluation of performance, he said.

He added that government authorities have no system for training newly-appointed Kuwaiti public servants to qualify them for their jobs.

He said the Civil Service Commission established a new project to train and qualify the newly appointed employees. The project was expected to serve more than 3,000 Kuwaiti employees during 1990, it was expected to commence in the first quarter of the new year.

He said that authorities will give priority to sorting out functions among the different government authorities as a kind of development of administrative staff.

They will also start establishing development units and committees at every ministry or government establishment. The Civil Service Council was now supervising and following up development questions in the public sector, he said.

Meetings

Zaben said there were 30 training centres for government staff and 12 of them train about 12,000 employees annually in different departments. These training courses serve the different levels of administration. The plan of administrative development cover the different leading, middle and supervisory cadres and officials, he said.

He said the meetings of the senior officials to benefit from their experience and information about administrative development and to exchange these experiences between them and the Civil Service Council that organises such meetings began on March 27. Six meetings were held, and attended by 128 senior officials from 46 ministries and government establishments.

The last meeting for senior officials will be held before the end of this year and will be attended by officials who did not attend the previous meetings, he said.

The meetings focused on training manpower and planning for training programmes for Kuwaiti employees Zaben said.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary for administrative development affairs at the Civil Service Commission Dr Naser Al Sania, said that sorting out the functions among government authorities was the important issue.

There were 272 cases of duplication of functions in which 47 government authorities were involved.

He added that the Council of Ministers was issuing decisions to sort out these functions.

He said it was time for Kuwaitis to replace non-Kuwaiti employees.

GCC desalination research fund called for

Water, power consumption to be rationalised

THE chairman of the board of the International Desalination Establishment Dr Adel Ahmad Boshnaq has called on GCC countries to set up a special fund to support research activities in water desalination, and to co-ordinate efforts in this respect.

He told a local daily that the participation in the first conference by the Society of Water Science and Technology to be held in Dubai during October 1990, would enable

GCC citizens and those interested in water-related issues to participate in dialogue and exchange of information.

Boshnaq said that the water desalination problem reflected the need to accord the environment further care and attention, pointing out that the Gulf was a closed body that needed protection of its marine environment amidst the increasing dangers of pollution, including water and electricity plants.

He further called for a reconsideration of electrical tariffs levied on major consumers whereby to reduce government support in order to encourage these consumers to economise and rationalise power consumption and select the best ways to produce fresh water.

Boshnaq added that future efforts would concentrate on cost-effectiveness pointing to the current major co-operation

between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the field of water desalination, adding that the Saudi kingdom had been a pioneer in the field of manufacturing water desalination equipment and that it was currently planning to produce the film used in the process.

GCC states and the Arab world had the technology and techno-industrial know-how to manufacture all types of desalination plants, Boshnaq said.

Term system under study

THE relevant personnel at the Ministry of Education were still involved in a study for unifying the secondary education systems, according to a senior ministerial official.

The official said that the general idea was to apply the term system at the secondary education level, as was done in most Arab countries, and that the study was based on a comparison of the existing systems to avoid inconveniences of application.

He said that according to the study, the system in Bahrain was the best, and that the ministry was planning to establish a system similar to Bahrain's.

The official said that the ministry was waiting to receive the recommendations to be adopted at the conference to be held next April on the diversification of the secondary education system to allow for possible utilisation of these recommendations.

Meanwhile, a representative of the Ministry of Education Sheikh Al Misalam has said that Education Ministry is now teaching dangers of AIDS in the biology text for the 4th class at the secondary stage. It will organise 8 cultural seminars on AIDS for pupils of schools. The ministry is also planning to teach dangers of AIDS in the text books of Arabic language and Islamic Education. She added that celebrations of the 2nd international Day of AIDS Control aim at concentrating on youths who are the most victims of the disease. She added that statistics of WHO showed that 20 per cent of patients of AIDS in the world are between 20 and 30 years old. WHO estimated that about two million people under 25 years old are infected with AIDS.

NCCAL demands increase in technical assets allocation

THE general secretary of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Farooq Al Omar, demanded an increase in technical assets allocation for the next budget.

He told a local daily that many applications by publishing companies to enter the book exhibition were turned down due to the limited area of the exhibition.

He praised efforts in organising the book exhibition.

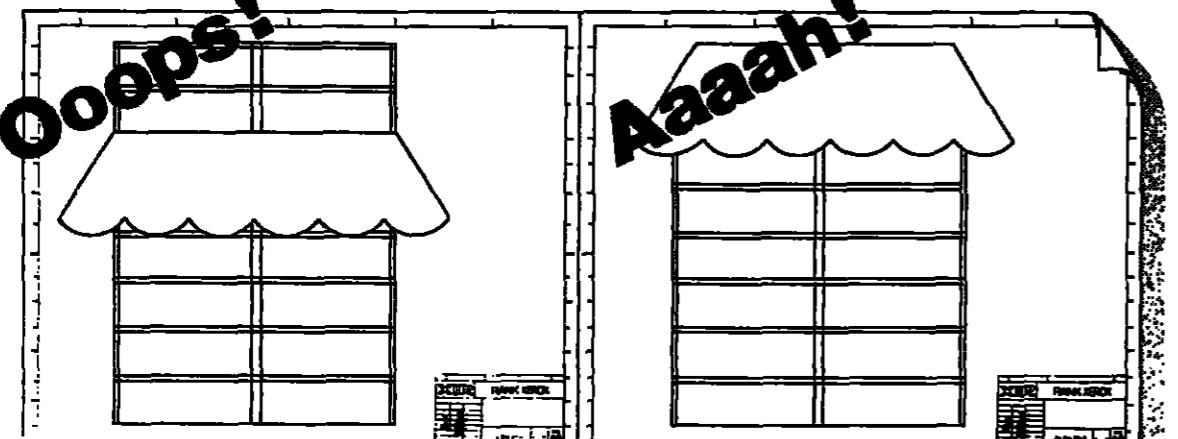
He said that the next book exhibition will be held at the new hall next year to give more publishers an opportunity to participate.

He added that the council will prepare a study on the method used in distributing council publications.

He indicated that several persons were sent abroad on scholarships to collect information on traditions of countries.

He said that books on general knowledge and international culture were among one of the series owned by the council and considered to be the biggest in the world.

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Velayati message conveyed to Sabah

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber today received a verbal message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayati.

The message was conveyed by Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hussein Sadeqi at a meeting with Sheikh Sabah today.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that the message explains the results of the visit to Tehran by the UN secretary-general's envoy Jan Eliasson and his talks with the Iranian officials on activating peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq and implementing the Security Council Resolution 598.

Eliasson has earlier this month made a shuttle tour between Baghdad and Tehran with the aim of reviving the peace process between Iran and Iraq.

The Iranian ambassador has recently returned from Tehran carrying a message from Velayati to Sheikh Sabah.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah today received the ambassador of Cuba to Kuwait and the Indian ambassador who paid courtesy visits to Sheikh Sabah.

Discussions at the two meetings dealt with relations between Kuwait and both Cuba and India in addition to issues of common concern.

Municipal meeting

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah today received in his diwan at Bayan Palace the appropriation committee of Kuwait Municipality on the occasion of their appointment.

The meeting was also attended by State Minister for Municipal Affairs Mohammed Al Sayed Abdul Mohsen Al Refai and director of Kuwait Municipality Mansour Al Nassar.

KD 3m annual Kuwaiti support to charity hospital

THE head of the Palestine Charity Committee at the Islamic International Charity Organisation, Dr Ammar Al Agha, has thanked the support given by Kuwait to the Islamic Maqdis Hospital in Jerusalem in the Occupied West Bank.

He said that Kuwait pays KD 3 million annually to the hospital. He added that the committee sent \$500,000 to the Patients' Friends Society in Gaza Strip, besides purchasing medical equipment for a complete hospital in Jenin city of West Bank.

The committee also supervised sending 5,000 sacrifices during Eid Al Adha this year to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These sacrifices cost about KD 210,000.

The committee is maintaining 600 Palestinian orphans in the Occupied territories, and performs its duties in supporting needy Palestinian students through a fund which was established for this purpose.

He said that donations and relief reach Palestinians in the occupied lands in many ways.

The representative of UNRWA expressed his readiness to send relief materials to people who deserve them in the occupied lands. He added that the women's branch of the committee is open to all Palestinian women who want to serve their people in the occupied lands.

The committee is now accepting winter relief materials every day until the end of this month, he said.

Dr Agha pointed out that committee began a project to provide Palestinians in occupied Palestine with food through UNRWA which distributes foodstuffs to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He added that the committee succeeded in collecting about \$500,000 as the first installment of the project. The money was sent to UNRWA which bought foodstuffs and distributed them in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The UNRWA sent photographs about distribution of these materials. Some people who came from Palestine stressed that UNRWA distributed the foodstuffs perfectly, he said.

Agha said that the Israeli war minister threatened to put an end to the Palestinian uprising (Intifada) by three means: the first by using force to kill Palestinians and destroy houses; the second by sending large numbers of Palestinians to prisons as well as expelling them outside Palestine; and the third by using the weapon of starting out. He added that hungry people cannot continue their struggle against occupation forces. The committee thought of a way to save their people from hunger and began the project to give them the basic foodstuffs to be able to continue their Intifada, he said.

Agha pointed out that the committee began its activities only 14 months ago but had achieved good results in supporting Palestinians in Occupied Palestine. It maintained about 600 Palestinian orphans and 200 students there. He added that Kuwait's Education Ministry provided it with about 50,000 pieces of school uniform to send to pupils in occupied Palestine. It also received winter clothes donated by citizens and expatriates in Kuwait. All these clothes are sent to the occupied lands by UNRWA, he said.

Past and future at Bahrain's car and boat show

A GLITTERING array of top-notch cars and the latest in boats and marine leisure equipment will go on display this week at the Autumn Fair '89 Motor and Boat show at the Exhibition Centre, Bahrain.

The motor section of the show also includes a vintage car display featuring over twelve of the best-maintained period cars on the island. These include a 1952 Pontiac, a 1957 Ford Thunderbird and a 1969 Jaguar E type among others.

"We have been very happy with the response to our call for vintage cars for the show. The vintage cars are in excellent condition and we are sure they will add an extra dimension to the show," commented Mr Key.

Standard Chartered Bank will be on hand with their financial services for visitors who want to buy cars and boats.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MEN are great only if they are determined to be so. — Charles de Gaulle, French statesman-general (1890-1970).

Summit will tackle momentous themes

LONDON, (Reuters): US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have bailed their Malta summit next weekend as an informal get-together.

But the subject bound to dominate their talks could hardly be more momentous — the collapse of the post-World War Two structure in Europe.

From the River Elbe that divides the two Germanys in the west to the Turkish frontier in the east, the East Europeans are rising up — peacefully — against the communist rule installed in the region four decades ago.

The communists are already out of power in Poland and free elections are imminent in Hungary. Mass demonstrations in East Germany and Czechoslovakia are forcing their governments in the same direction.

Bulgaria's veteran leader Todor Zhivkov has been sacked and his successor has promised reforms. Only Romania has resisted the changes which have spurred increasing liberalisation and fired nationalist separatism in the Soviet Union itself.

The speed of the transformation could scarcely have been imagined a year ago when Gorbachev last met Bush and outgoing President Ronald Reagan over lunch on Governors Island in New York harbour.

Bush has said that during the shipboard summit off the Maltese coast he will seek Gorbachev's assurance that the reforms in Eastern Europe will continue and will tell him that he does not plan to exploit the situation to undermine Moscow.

Soviet officials, traditionally reluctant to claim responsibility for their Warsaw Pact allies, are saying only that Gorbachev will press for the economic rewards from the West that he feels the new situation in Europe warrants.

In fact, despite the unfortunate rhyming of Malta with Yalta, the 1945 allied summit that locked Eastern Europe into the Soviet sphere of influence, neither superpower leader now appears willing or able to affect the changes going on there.

But equally, neither can escape the consequences of what is happening for the East-West balance of power as the Warsaw Pact slides into decay and the prospect of German reunification looms on the horizon.

Some Western experts say the pact is now virtually useless since the liberalising countries simply would not fight. Others say the alliance's command structures and deployed forces remain in place and must continue to be taken seriously.

In any case the weakening of the pact, as the ideological cement of Communism that held it together crumbles away, need not put Gorbachev in a weak position as it would appear.

He could turn it to his advantage if he can negotiate over the next few years the dismantling of both Europe's military alliance, a long-standing Kremlin aim.

Western leaders have always rejected this proposal but public sentiment that Nato has outlived its usefulness is bound to grow if the Soviet threat is seen as decreasing.

Nato's problem, like Moscow's, is to maintain both alliances until they can negotiate cuts in Europe's armed forces that will minimise the threat of conflict on the continent. This gives it a vested interest in seeing the fact, its adversary for the past three decades, continue in being.

"We must always safeguard our liberty and stand by Nato and the Warsaw Pact structure," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in Washington last week.

Some reductions, including a cut of 30,000 men in the 300,000-strong US contingent in Europe, will come if, as expected, the East-West force reduction talks in Vienna reach agreement by the second half of next year.

But the pace of change in Eastern Europe appears to be outstripping the arms negotiations and the talk in Nato capitals is now of a possible second phase of Vienna talks that could involve more sweeping cuts.

Newsweek magazine said this week that Bush, driven by plans to scale down the huge American defence budget, was considering cutting US troops in Europe to 100,000 men by the mid-1990s, though it said he was unlikely to propose this at Malta.

Western experts are speculating meanwhile that Gorbachev may come up with reduction proposals of his own, possibly in naval forces which are excluded from the Vienna talks.

Parallel with the arms dilemma is the problem of Germany which assumed major proportions after East Germany opened its border with the West this month and set off on the road to free elections.

In a move that appeared designed to put the German question firmly on the Malta agenda, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Tuesday proposed a federation with the East as part of a plan for ultimate German reunification.

Since the front-line troops of both alliances are deployed in the two Germanys, talks of reunification poses obvious military problems for both superpowers. The political and economic complications are almost as formidable.

But neither Bush nor Gorbachev has ruled out reunification in the long term and they are likely to seek comfort in Kohl's statement that it can only come about in a European context.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1652 — Dutch defeat English fleet off Dungeness, England.

1710 — Turkey declares war on Russia.

1782 — Americans and British sign preliminary peace articles in Paris, ending American revolutionary war.

1838 — Mexico declares war on France after French occupation of Vera Cruz.

1853 — Turkish fleet is destroyed by Russia off Sinope.

1918 — Transylvania proclaims union with Romania.

1934 — Egypt's constitution is suspended; Moroccan Nationalist Movement is founded.

1938 — Members of Romanian Iron Guard are shot as government attempts to destroy fascism.

1949 — Chinese communists capture city of Chungking.

1962 — U Thant of Burma is elected secretary-general of United Nations.

1964 — Soviet Union launches spacecraft toward planet Mars in apparent 325-million-mile race with US Mariner 4.

1971 — US President Richard Nixon authorizes Import-Export Bank to extend credit to Romania, ending three-year ban on US government-backed credits to communist-bloc nations.

1975 — US President Gerald Ford flies to China to expand new relationship begun in Peking by former President Richard Nixon three years earlier.



Israeli soldiers patrol the West Bank. (Reuter wirephoto)

Israelis oppose presence in occupied territories

Soldiers refuse to serve

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuters): At just 19, Ami Lewenhoff has the makings of a model Israeli soldier. A star in basic training, he was recommended for a tank commanders' course.

But when posted to the occupied West Bank, he refused to go.

Opposed to Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Lewenhoff is one of a growing number of soldiers jailed as conscientious objectors for refusing to serve there during nearly two years of a Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

The leftist Yesh Gvul movement — its name means, "there's a limit" — says 94 of the soldiers have gone to jail.

The army puts the total at 69. Both agree seven were conscripts under 21. Although they dispute the total, the army and Yesh Gvul agree the rest were reservists.

Army officers admit privately the phenomenon is far more widespread than the courts-martial indicate. Hundreds of other soldiers avoid duty in the territories by persuading their commanders to post them inside Israel.

Yesh Gvul activist Peretz Kidron, 56, who first refused to serve in the territories in 1974, said:

"I take literally the name of the army, which is the Israel defence forces. I don't see serving in the territories as serving Israeli defence."

"This is an army of occupation and repression and I refuse to play any part in it," he said.

The issue is controversial in a country where nearly all Jewish men are drafted for three years from age 18 and then called up for annual reserve

duty to age 54.

Polls show the army is Israel's most revered institution, though it faces world-wide accusations of using excessive force against the 1.7 million Palestinians waging the revolt in the occupied territories.

In its war in Lebanon from 1982 to 1985, Israel jailed some 160 conscientious objectors. But Israelis rarely refused duty in the territories until the uprising erupted in December 1987 and clashes with stone-throwing civilians became a daily affair.

Lewenhoff sparked a furore in 1987 when he led a group of 16 army recruits who wrote to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin warning: "If ordered to take part in repressive actions, we will be forced to refuse."

"We were all born after 1967 when the Israeli army in essence turned from a defensive army into a conquering and oppressive army," they wrote, referring to the capture of the occupied territories in the 1967 Middle East war.

After jailing Lewenhoff for some 100 days, against an average of 24 days for conscientious objectors, the army reassigned him to a post inside Israel.

Formed in 1982 to oppose the invasion of Lebanon, Yesh Gvul now works to end the occupation of the territories.

It wants the government to drop its refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"There's a limit to obedience even if you live in a

democratic country," said group spokesman Amnon Karmon, an army sergeant jailed for a total of 49 days after refusing to serve in Lebanon in 1983 and in the territories last year.

There are varying degrees of conscientious objection.

Some reservists will train in the territories or guard a supplies base, but refuse contacts with Palestinians that would mean they were enforcing Israel's "iron fist" policy against the uprising.

Activists say conscientious objection is growing away at the army.

As proof they cite a letter from a brigade commander warning reservists that anyone refusing to serve in the territories would be punished severely.

But military officials say their surveys show a rise in motivation, particularly among conscripts, since Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon in 1985.

A military spokesman said: "As far as the army is concerned, the place and time to voice one's personal views is at the ballot box."

Some objectors find prison an ideal place for voicing their views. Karmon, 33, a philosophy student, said he discussed his ideas with soldiers jailed for other offences.

"The time in jail is maybe the most important political period. During my 25 days last time there may have been 500 soldiers who passed through, and most were from the right-wing of Israeli society."

"But there is a solidarity among prisoners. It's a unique situation of trying to understand one another and to convince the unconvincing," he said.

That may explain why they have not accepted their plummeting prospects since an economic crisis gripped the country in the early 1980s, triggered largely by falling world oil prices. A much-prized hard currency allowance that allowed Algerians to travel was withdrawn in 1983.

"We've seen the good life. We have tasted the fruit. And then they took it away. That's why we are disgusted," said Karmon.

Rioting youngsters who rampaged through the streets of Algiers and other cities in October 1988 marked the death knell of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front and launched one of the Third World's few multi-party democracies.

But the young say their lives have not improved much since President Chadli Benjedid's political reforms led to a flowering of free speech and opposition political parties unprecedented since independence in 1962.

"For years they've been telling us it will change. But we've seen nothing," said Abdelkader, a 23-year-old taxi driver.

"If someone came to me at three in the morning and told me he would take me abroad to work I would leave immediately in my pyjamas," he said.

Boudjema says the crisis will not last, and that the government is activating training, employment and cultural programmes to combat it.

But the young appear to have little confidence in the plans or promised economic reforms designed to revive the economy.

"I'm 23. But I've suffered like a man of 60," said Farid, who hopes to emigrate when his army service ends next year.

Algerian youth live in despair

ALGIERS, (Reuters): Kamel heard about the boat taking jobless Algerians to Australia from a friend at Algiers port.

The boat and the well paying job in the Antipodes are illusions, although thousands of young Algerians still talk excitedly about the ship that came to take them to greener pastures but never berthed.

Algeria and Australia emphatically deny a boat ever came. But the fiction persists, a glimmer of hope for young men without jobs, flats or money whose despair exploded into rage in October 1988 riots that changed the face of Algeria.

People under 30 form three-quarters of Algeria's exploding population of 24 million and their anger, calmed but not defused by sweeping democratic reforms, remains a potential time bomb.

"Their numbers, and their needs, are extremely large, and we have not dealt with them in time," Youth and Sports Minister Abdelkader Boudjema told Reuters. "Evidently, not seeing anything come,

According to Kamel, the Australian ship docked at the nearby Spanish island port of Palma and hundreds of Algerians travelled over to meet it.

Last month a crowd of unemployed youngsters gathered by the Algiers central post office when a van arrived carrying foreigners who began — or were rumoured to have begun — enrolling Algerians for high-paying jobs in Australia.

"If the van ever existed, it was probably a scam," said Michael Smith of the Australian embassy in Algiers.

"The boat rumours have been going around for

years. West still get people, about once a week, calling us to say the boat has arrived and can they please have a visa."

The official Uga Labour Union puts unemployment in the general population at nearly 30 per cent. Among men under 30 who are not either students or in the army for a mandatory two-year service, the figure is probably higher.

A housing crisis means that even those with money have trouble finding a flat. Marriage, with the exorbitant costs demanded by Arab tradition, is beyond the means of many.

Sports facilities and cultural programmes are inadequate. Social, economic and sexual misery prevail, and flight at times seems the only solution.

"I always feel depressed because I can't get out. I feel like killing myself sometimes," said Kamel, a 23-year-old law student who doubts he will find a job on graduation.

Hundreds of young Algerians are believed to immigrate illegally each year to France, swelling its already huge Algerian immigrant community of 800,000. They also illegally enter other European countries and North America.

So many jobless young spend their days and nights standing against the walls of city streets that a slang term has evolved to describe them — "Hajis," a typically Algerian mixture of the Arabic word for wall and a French suffix.

Boudjema says the crisis will not last, and that the government is activating training, employment and cultural programmes to combat it.

But the young appear to have little confidence in the plans or promised economic reforms designed to revive the economy.

"I'm 23. But I've suffered like a man of 60," said Farid, who hopes to emigrate when his army service ends next year.

Parliamentary elections in Taiwan

Dancer challenges National Party veteran

KAOHSIUNG, Taiwan, (Reuters): Voters in Taiwan's port of Kaohsiung have an exotic choice of parliamentary candidates this year.

Hsu Shao-Tan, a nude dancer and self-styled "daughter of the working class," is challenging Wu Der-Mei, a tough Nationalist Party veteran who has been known to attack opponents with her stiletto heels.

Political analysts, their reactions ranging from horror to delight, say Hsu may emerge as the winner in the election on December 2, the first in which opposition parties can legally compete.

Hsu denies she is a Taiwanese version of "La Cicciolina" (little fleshy one), the born star who successfully ran for Parliament in Italy.

Instead, she says she is a serious representative of the working class and the artistic community who will "fight with breasts" for social justice on the island.

In a country with a strong tradition of conservative Confucian values, Hsu's political programme is certainly unorthodox.

When the 30-year-old former teacher and artist's model announced her candidacy in February, she promised to run naked through a garbage dump, plunge into a polluted river and put on strip shows.

Since the campaign began on November 17 she has gone further, vowing to strip naked in Parliament.

"I don't know much about politics, so I don't have to play by political rules," Hsu said in an interview at her tiny campaign headquarters, which she has decorated with nude self-portraits and voluminous purple curtains.

"But I understand the pain of being poor in a rich society. We don't want much, just a bit more justice."

Hsu, dismissed as a joke at the start of her campaign, has emerged as a natural politician.

Running for the tiny Labour Party, she draws thousands with political speeches that combine a flighty sense of humour with sharp criticism of the ruling Nationalist Party and vivid personal attacks on Wu.

"When I first started out, people would only show up to yell at me to take off my clothes. Now they actually listen to me," she said.

"Hsu is speaking about women's rights, urban development, the defence budget. She is a real candidate," said Yao Li-ming, a political science professor at Kaohsiung's Chung Shan University.

MIDEAST
BRIEFS

AL to discuss

TUNIS, Nov 29, (UPI): The 22-member Arab League scheduled an extraordinary meeting of its ministerial council today to examine the evolution of the Middle East peace process, a league spokesman said.

The meeting of Arab League foreign ministers, originally scheduled for Sunday but postponed due to poor attendance, was rescheduled for this evening in the Tunisian capital.

Shamir concerned

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Nov 29, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is troubled by prospects of a reunited Germany because of memories of the Nazi slayings of six million Jews, a spokesman said today.

Another cabinet minister from Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, Gideon Patt, criticised Poland for failing to apologise for its role in the World War II killings and said Israel should be in no hurry to resume ties with Warsaw.

Mother pleads

PARIS, Nov 29, (Reuter): The mother of a jailed pro-Iranian gunman made an impassioned plea yesterday for the life of her son, said to be in a grave state because of hunger strike.

The lawyer for Lebanese Anis Naccache, serving life for double murder, released the open letter addressed to French President Francois Mitterrand and Iranian leader Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Dutch freed

AMSTERDAM, Nov 29, (Reuter): A Dutch journalist jailed in Lebanon since September on charges of espionage and possession of illegal drugs has been released, a Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Journalist Charles Van Der Lekke, who works for Dutch and Belgian newspapers and broadcasting companies, was one of the country's and in the hands of Dutch diplomats, the spokesman added.

Waldegrave to visit

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): A British government minister is to visit South Yemen for the first time since it became independent from Britain in 1967, the Foreign Office said today.

William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister responsible for the Middle East, will visit South Yemen from Dec 3 to Dec 5 as part of a three-country tour of the Arabian peninsula.

Cyprus talks

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 29, (UNA): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar will separate talks this week with the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, a UN spokesman announced yesterday.

Perez de Cuellar was expected to meet President George Vassilopoulos of Cyprus this morning and President of the Republic of Northern Cyprus next Monday.

Hurd may not attend

LONDON, Nov 29, (Ku): British officials said Wednesday that it was unlikely that Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd will attend a meeting of EEC and Arab League foreign ministers in Paris next month.

But a spokesman for the Foreign Office said that Britain will certainly be represented during the meeting.

Blizzards cut off

ANKARA, Nov 29, (Reuter): Blizzards cut off 324 villages in eastern Turkey yesterday and left many of them without power, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said.

It said snow-clearing teams were working on roads in Erzurum, Erzincan, Kars and Agri provinces. Nearly half the affected villages were without power after two days of blizzards toppled poles and snapped lines.

Court restores hotel

NICOSIA, Nov 29, (Reuter): A court in breakaway North Cyprus has ordered a semi-governmental Turkish-Cypriot organisation to vacate a hotel and hand it back to its British owners, court sources said yesterday.

They said Cyprus Turkish Tourism Enterprises was told to evacuate the Salamis Bay Hotel, north of the eastern coastal town of Famagusta, by February 28, 1990, in favour of its lawful owners, Leonard Fairlough Hotels Ltd.

Gold smuggling

KATHMANDU, Nov 29, (AP): Custom officials have arrested a Syrian and an Iranian in separate cases of alleged smuggling involving a total of more than \$200,000 worth of gold, airport customs officials said today.

The officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Abdul Hamid of Syria was arrested Monday while trying to smuggle in 2.45 kilograms (5.4 pounds) of gold valued at 1.26 million rupees (\$4,366) on the Nepalese market.

Peace talks

NAIROBI, Nov 29, (Reuters): Ethiopia and Eritrean rebels said today they would hold full scale negotiations early next year to end Africa's longest-running war.

In a communiqué ending eight days of talks in Nairobi the government and separatist rebels of the Ethiopian People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said former Tanzanian and ex-US president Julius Nyerere and ex-US president Jimmy Carter would chair the conference.

Doctors' strike

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Nov 29, (AP): The ruling junta today announced to take measures against doctors staging a week-long strike, and blamed the protest on communists.

In a strongly-worded statement broadcast on the official Radio Dabanga, the 13-member ruling Revolution Command Council declared the strike, begun Sunday, as a "disgrace to the nation and to the armed forces guarding the country."

Iran accepts UN talks offer

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 29, (Agencies): The UN Secretary-General said yesterday he expected planned peace talks with Iran and Iraq in mid-December to be indirect negotiations rather than face-to-face discussions between the protagonists.

In response to questions, Javier Perez de Cuellar said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati had accepted the invitation to come to New York but he had not received a reply yet from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

He said that if both ministers did participate, he expected to meet them separately for discussions on how to

proceed towards implementing a comprehensive peace plan.

The secretary-general was speaking to reporters after briefing the Security Council on the recent shuttle mission to both countries by his personal representative, Ambassador Jan Eliasson.

After the meeting, the Security Council released a statement saying its members were convinced that with their support the UN peace plan would be implemented speedily.

Asked if both sides had been cooperative during the Eliasson mission, the secretary general said: "They were very co-

operative with my personal representative (but) not necessarily co-operative with each other."

Diplomats said Iraq, which is expected to attend the December sessions, was not very enthusiastic about the negotiations because it wanted face to face talks with Iran.

The two are still believed to be far apart in breaking the stalemate towards reaching a permanent peace settlement since they stopped eight years of warfare in August 1988.

Iran recently said it was willing to exchange prisoners with Iraq simulta-

nously with an Iraqi withdrawal from about 1,000 miles of Iranian territory occupied since the fighting ended. Previously Tehran had insisted on Iraqi withdrawal before considering other issues.

Iran is believed to hold over 60,000 Iraqi prisoners while Iraq is estimated to hold over 40,000 Iranians captive.

Iraq, which has suggested joint committees under UN supervision to tackle the outstanding issues, has insisted on a prisoner exchange and the reopening of the contested Shatt Al Arab waterway before other subjects are discussed.

Soviet amnesty for Afghan veterans

MOSCOW, Nov 29, (Agencies): The Soviet Parliament yesterday approved an amnesty for all Soviet soldiers who committed crimes while serving in Afghanistan, confirming that deserters could return home without fear of punishment.

The measure gave full legal force to the amnesty announced in July, 1988 by public prosecutor Alexander Sukharev.

It also appeared to be a sweeping, unconditional pardon for all crimes committed by soldiers during the Soviet Union's nine-year engagement.

The Supreme Soviet (Parliament) today granted an amnesty to former Soviet servicemen who committed crimes while in Afghanistan, said the Tass news agency report of the decision.

This decision confirms that all Soviet servicemen, taken prisoner or reported missing in Afghanistan, will be able to use all civil rights under the USSR constitution on their return home.

The Parliament appealed to other countries to help Soviet servicemen who are still abroad to come home.

Tass said two Soviet servicemen who had been prisoners of war, Andrei Lopukh and Valery Prokophyuk, left Islamabad, Pakistan yesterday for the Soviet Union.

Moscow, which completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan in February, has said that over 300 Soviet were captured and have not returned home.

The Kremlin believes that at least 200 of these are still alive and held by rebels in Afghanistan or Pakistan, or freed and living in the United States, Canada or West European countries.

Before the amnesty, deserters faced the possibility of long prison sentences if they returned home. The amnesty would also appear to apply to deserters caught previously and sentenced to prison.

Afghanistan's anti-communist rebels have mounted a new offensive, but this time they are pursuing good press not military successes, say rebel and Western sources.

It said snow-clearing teams were working on roads in Erzurum, Erzincan, Kars and Agri provinces. Nearly half the affected villages were without power after two days of blizzards toppled poles and snapped lines.

Meanwhile, a Western diplomat who refused to be further identified said yesterday that rebel fighters can count on US financial support for at least another two years.

Last February, Soviet soldiers returned home after trying for nine years to crush the Muslim insurgency, and reaching a stalemate.

Since then, the rebels have lost most rounds in the fight for world opinion, say rebel and Western sources. Afghanistan's President Najib, has emerged as a man of compromise.

He has offered to step down in the cause of peace, although he often has contradicted that offer, claiming to be the only popularly elected leader. And his calls for a ceasefire have been rejected by Muslim insurgents who say Najib would use it in fighting to consolidate and regroup.

In contrast, the rebel leadership has developed an image of a group of bickering power brokers.

Two of the more powerful rebel groups have been sparring sporadically in northern Afghanistan. The seven-party rebel coalition is divided into Islamic moderates and fundamentalists.

Internal fights have characterized the nine-month-old rebel government-in-exile.

Gold smuggling

KATHMANDU, Nov 29, (AP): Custom officials have arrested a Syrian and an Iranian in separate cases of alleged smuggling involving a total of more than \$200,000 worth of gold, airport customs officials said today.

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Peace talks

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FAO snubs US, will assist PLO

Washington 'bound to pay UN dues'

ROME, Nov 29, (Agencies): Despite US threats to cut funds, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation today voted overwhelmingly to co-operate with the PLO in offering technical assistance to Palestinians in Israeli-occupied territories.

Only the United States and Israel voted against the resolution, which was introduced by a group of Arab countries at a FAO's government conference.

A total of 96 countries voted in favour and 14 abstained.

The State Department earlier this week threatened to cut funds to the agency if the measure passed.

The UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar believes the United States is duty bound to pay its UN dues, his spokesman said yesterday in an implied rebuke to Washington for threatening to cut off funds if the world body upgrades the status of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"He considers that the contribution of the United States to the (UN) budget is not in any way linked to anything that happens in the General Assembly but that it is an obligation under the charter," the UN spokesman said.

"It is a debt by the government of the United States. It is not a loan to the United Nations or a other UN agencies."

The resolution also calls for free access by FAO staff members to occupied Palestinian territory.

The State Department said yesterday that US Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter had written to the FAO director-general, Edwardo Sacoma, a Lebanese, that there was considerable concern over the issue in the US Congress and administration.

The message said that while the United States had no objection to the FAO's becoming involved in projects in the occupied territories "it would be ill-advised for the organisation to do so in such a way as to involve itself in the geo-political process."

Later this week, Arab nations plan to draft a resolution through the UN General Assembly recognising the PLO as a nation. The State Department has threatened to cut off all US support for the United Nations if the General Assembly votes to recognise the PLO as a nation.

Actual UN membership would require the approval of the Security Council, where the United States has a veto.

The United States is obligated to pay 25 per cent of the UN budget, which totals about \$850 million a year, but is in arrears to the tune of more than \$430 million.

A foreign appropriations bill recently passed by Congress requires the US administration to cut off funds to any group that enhances the PLO's status.

US Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering said yesterday the US-PLO dialogue will be in jeopardy if the General Assembly votes to recognise the PLO as a nation.

He added that "a favourable response by the PLO to the US Security Council's plan was needed," the sources added.

On Arab-European co-operation, Klibi said he would discuss with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abd Al Meguid "a group of practical arrangements" on amending the League's charter but did not elaborate.

Asked of prospects of transferring the Arab League's headquarters back to Cairo from Tunis, Klibi said, "this issue requires an hour-long meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak."

Klibi said he would discuss with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abd Al Meguid "a group of practical arrangements" on amending the League's charter but did not elaborate.

Asked of prospects of transferring the Arab League's headquarters back to Cairo from Tunis, Klibi said, "this issue requires an hour-long meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak."

Klibi later began talks with Abd Al Meguid but sources said Klibi is cutting short his current three-day visit and soon would be travelling back to Tunis to attend an emergency session of Arab League's foreign ministers requested by the PLO to debate the Palestinian question.

Klibi has said the session was being postponed because of lack of the needed quorum.

On Arab-European co-operation, Klibi said it must be developed "to safeguard Arab interests" particularly in view of the fact that the European Economic Community would become "one economic bloc" in 1992.

He also said preparations are underway for a meeting grouping 12 Arab ministers and 12 African ministers to enhance Arab-African co-operation.

In March 1979 Egypt's membership of the Arab League was suspended, and it was decided to make Tunis the temporary headquarters of the League, its secretariat and its permanent committee.

Mubarak attended the last emergency Arab summit meeting held in Casablanca, Morocco, in May.

Moscow rules out ties with Israel

PARIS, Nov 29, (Ku): Soviet Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Vladimir Petrovski confirmed here that his country will not resume diplomatic relations with Israel before the subsidence of conditions that caused Moscow to sever its ties with Tel Aviv in 1967.

Speaking to journalists following a seminar on the "new thinking of the Soviet Union" at the Senate last evening, Petrovski insisted that the relations with Tel Aviv will not be raised in the upcoming US-Soviet summit in Malta. The Soviet official said it is up to the two leaders to discuss that since there is no set agenda for the meeting.

He added that the two leaders might examine all the peace initiatives for the Middle East, including the ten point proposal of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

In the seminar, Petrovski evaded a question on the future of Jews in the Soviet Union, saying that his government condemns the practices committed against certain groups during the Stalinist era.

He added that the two leaders might examine all the peace initiatives for the Middle East, including the ten point proposal of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"There is a mental barrier between the two sides," said Mustafa Akinici, mayor of the Turkish half of the city. "Somebody may wish that the day we pull down the wall we will all embrace each other and the Cyprus problem

will be over ... this is not the situation."

"There are bitter memories on both sides and we have to be careful with our approach," he said.

Lellos Demetriadis, the Mayor of the Greek Cypriot sector said he thought eliminating the physical barrier between the two sides would help build trust.

"Though of course I don't expect people like in East Berlin who came rushing to West Berlin," Demetriadis said. "But it won't do any harm."

The city, with a combined population now of more than 200,000 people, was cut in half in 1974. The Turkish army invaded and carved

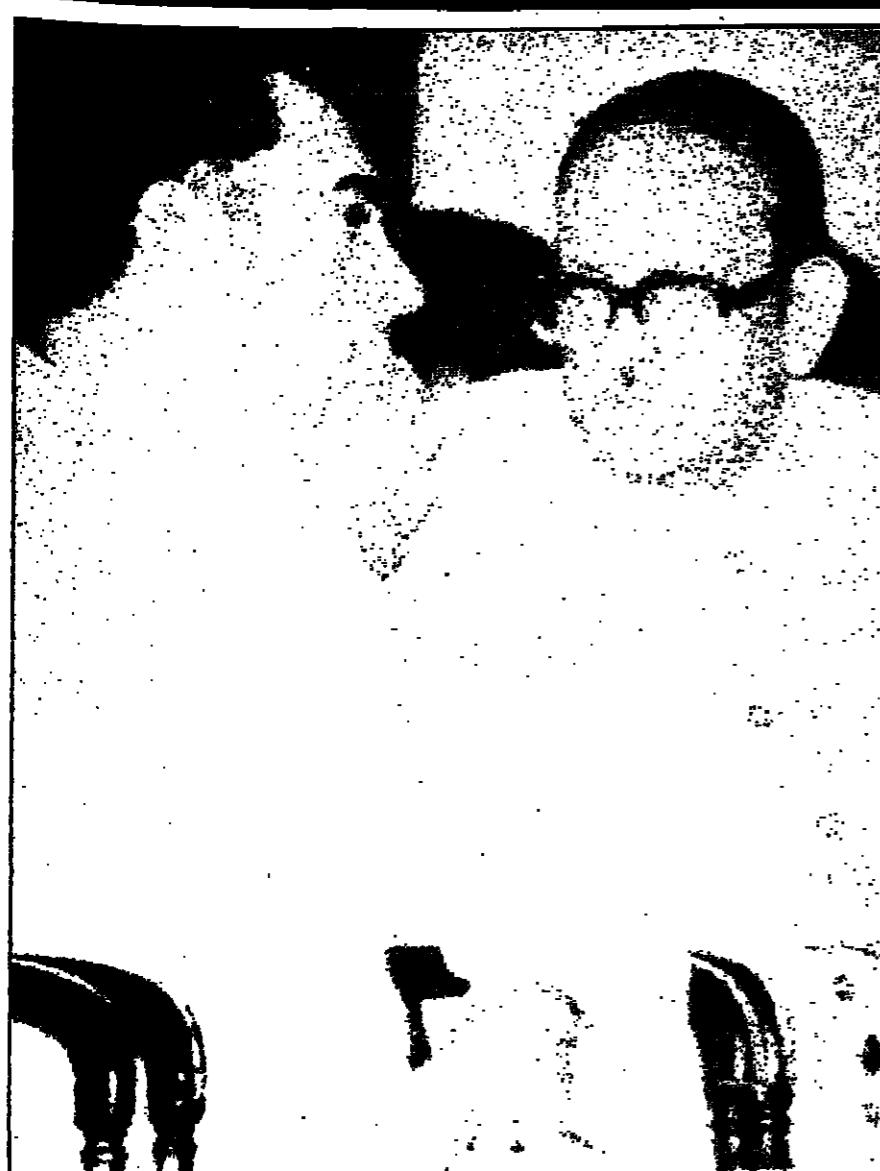
Summit can only move AL HQ

CAIRO, Nov 29, (UPI): Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said today an Arab summit is needed to transfer the League's headquarters from Tunis to Cairo.

Klibi said he would discuss with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esam Abd Al Meguid "a group of practical arrangements" on amending the League's charter.

Klibi said he would discuss with Abd Al Meguid "a group of practical arrangements" on amending the League's charter but did not elaborate.

"There are differing views over this issue and it must be settled at an Arab summit," Klibi said after an hour-long



Rajiv Gandhi (left) speaks with V.P. Singh before they split in 1987. (Reuter wirephoto)



Jawaharlal Nehru (left), Indira Gandhi (right), Sanjay (center) and Rajiv together in an early family photo. (Reuter wirephoto)



Rajiv with his mother during the last ceremony for his brother Sanjay Gandhi in June 1980. (Reuter wirephoto)

humiliating ending to a hopeful beginning

HI. (Reuter): Rajiv's resignation as Indian prime minister today capped a week for his Congress party at the polls.

Failure to steer the party to a parliamentary victory handed his residence Ramaswamy a man, ending five years in office. Position parties trying to form a new government, Venka asked Rajiv to carry on as prime minister with a council of ministers.

5-year-old scion of the Nehru political dynasty in 1984 on a surge of what he could bring clean and modernise the system. Rajiv was beset by a wave of massive corruption, embarrassed by charges of trying to rig his re-election in the northern town of

major problem was the Bofors Company. Rajiv paid huge bribes to \$1.3 billion artillery deal. Revelations of a secret 1989 election campaign, which hammered away at the corruption theme, with himself as the main target.

was in turn when the airline pilot succeeded his mother Indira Gandhi as prime minister within hours of her death on October 31, 1984.

After four-year political

leadership had given him little for the task of ruling India's 810 million people, Rajiv took his head.

murder of his mother India into crisis as Hindu Sikhs, killing about 1000 people, but a wave of pathos swept Rajiv to an extended margin of victory.

Two months later, his first year in office was marked by conciliation and maturity, but halfway through his five-year term things began to go wrong.

Rajiv failed to stop killings by militants fighting for their homeland in the northern state of Punjab and, constantly under fire from heavy military, he had always to wear a bullet-proof vest.

His involvement in Sri Lanka's civil war, in a long row over Colombo's demand for an early withdrawal of peacekeeping troops in 1987 in an attempt to end the island's civil war between Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan government, led to his downfall.

Rajiv suffered a body blow when former finance minister Vishwanath Singh, now his probable successor, quit to lead a fragile opposition alliance and launch an intense campaign saying his administration was up.

Rajiv's standing as a winner was dented in a series of state assembly reverses. Rajiv cultivated the image of a demigod world leader, but it failed to have a major impact. In the end, his Western life in a country dominated by

India's political soap opera

Curtain drops on the Nehru dynasty

NEW DELHI. (Reuter): Rajiv Gandhi's resignation as prime minister on Wednesday brings down the curtain on the latest act in India's longest-running political soap opera — the Nehru dynasty.

But political analysts are swift to point out it may not be the final curtain.

Rajiv resigned after his Congress Party, swept to power with 415 seats in the 545-member Parliament in 1984, suffered humiliating setbacks in national elections which ended on Sunday, and failed to win a clear majority.

Serves

He was the third member of his family to serve as prime minister of this diverse nation of 810 million people.

His grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru, independent India's first prime minister, his mother Indira and Rajiv governed for a total of 37 years since British colonial rule ended in 1947.

Congress sources said Rajiv was expected to be re-elected party leader at a meeting late on Wednesday, which should forestall any immediate attempt at a revolt by old guard party members eager to get rid of him.

His most significant ally may ironically be India's normally fractious opposition which Congress officials believe will quickly lose the appearance of unity it cobbled together to fight the elections.

Apart

The only other non-Congress government India has had since 1947 fell apart just over two years after it took power in 1977.

But Rajiv is still not completely safe — especially from the old guard who felt he froze them out of the inner party councils. The 40-year-old party led the movement which won India independence.

"There is a definite threat to the dynasty and Rajiv will need the charisma of his grandfather and the resilience of his mother to ensure his survival," said Ashish Nandy of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, a research institute in New Delhi.

Younger party members, attracted to Congress because of Rajiv, say they will stand firm behind their leader.

Promoted

"We will be ready to face any eventuality. The party is united

behind Rajiv Gandhi," said Anand Sharma, who was promoted from the leadership of the Congress youth wing to the party's front rank as its official spokesman.

Indira Gandhi faced a similar struggle against an entrenched older membership in 1969. She won, demonstrating skills at manipulating public opinion which became legendary.

She forced the party to split on ideological lines — supporters of her apparently socialist programme against rivals wanting to preserve India's semi-feudal system.

Her victory gave her an iron grip over the party apparatus and over the nation. Many Indians came to see her as devoted to the concerns of the common man.

"To repeat that (his mother's victory), Mr Gandhi must forget his new ideas of opening up the economy and go in for some good old-fashioned rhetoric to attract the left," said another young Congress leader.

Rural

Nandy said the concept of the Nehru dynasty had caught the imagination of India's 100-million strong middle class but not the largely illiterate rural people who make up 75 per cent of India's population.

"Furthermore, only Nehru had real charisma needed to keep a dynasty alive. Indira and Rajiv gained their popularity through the concept of image," he said.

Indira Gandhi elevated herself to the status of a Hindu goddess — Bharat Mata, or mother India — with a carefully cultivated image of a remote figure with a simple lifestyle.

But Rajiv, an airline pilot who went into politics in 1980 on the death of his younger brother, Sanjay, came to symbolise an elitist, Westernised lifestyle, some analysts said.

Returns

Even if Rajiv loses the internal power struggle and never returns to office, that does not necessarily mean the end of the dynasty.

His sister-in-law, Maneka, won her seat in the elections as a leading figure in the opposition National Front that looks set to form the next government.

And waiting in the wings is Rajiv's teenage daughter Priyanka who many say the father is grooming for a political career.

the poor simply made him look foreign.

He did boost relations with old foes Pakistan, against which India has fought three wars, after Benazir Bhutto became last December its first elected prime minister.

in 11 years.

He improved cool ties with the United States while keeping traditional links with the Soviet Union.

He went to China in December 1989, opening a new chapter in

relations frozen since a brief border war in 1962.

Rajiv Gandhi, born in Bombay on August 20, 1944, is the grandson of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and son of Indira Gandhi, who

Sidelight

Threat seen to US interests: Powerful Indian opposition forces are expected to exploit the deadlocked national elections to renew calls for the ejection of "imperialistic" US corporations from the subcontinent, analysts and political scientists said today.

That could threaten the briskly-growing US-Indian business contracts, which exceed \$6 billion annually.

Experts told the Washington Post that leftists and rural populists may again, as happened in the Janata administration of 1977-79, rail against corporations like PepsiCo and International Business Machines (IBM).

Both huge American corporations were forced to quit India after then-finance minister George Fernandes changed foreign investment laws.

They said it seemed more and more likely that the Janata Party again will lead India's next administration.

Even if the Congress Party of Rajiv Gandhi scrapes together a coalition, it will need the support of the two communist parties, they pointed out.

Communists, as well as forces led by still-influential leftist Fernandez and others, oppose increased importation of foreign consumer goods for the urban middle classes. They favour instead more focus on building India's agricultural economy.

American and other foreign businessmen have been pouring into India for the past few years, attracted by its consistent economic growth under Rajiv, the growing middle class and Rajiv's slowly liberalising fiscal policies.

Indian optimists argue, meanwhile, that the US-Indian economic links now are too strong to be endangered by opposition elements.

They say the presence of so many multinational corporations — and the fact that the US is India's biggest trading partner — over-shadows any change of political parties.

It was not enough to compensate for the debacle in the north, and the west and east, where the voters had changed of another sort in mind.

Indeed, had Congress won its bonus of 40 odd seats in the south, it could have been reduced more than in the great rout of 1977, when voters expressed their disgust with Indira Gandhi's illiteracy with emergency rule.

This time, the wave of popular opinion went against her son, Rajiv Gandhi. In state after state, once considered impregnable Congress strongholds, the opposition Janata Dal and Bharatiya Janata parties swept aside the government candidates.

Inevitably, heads started to roll. Three Congress chief ministers resigned, or offered to. In Madhya Pradesh, Motilal Vora said he would step down from the party leadership in the state assembly. So too did Orissa chief minister, J.B. Patnaik, and Gujarat chief minister, Amarsinh Chaudhary.

Other Congress state bosses are also in an indefensible position. In Rajasthan and Bihar the party is heading for humiliation. In the biggest state of all, Uttar Pradesh, it was actually lost control of the Vidhan Sabha, or assembly, in a badly timed simultaneous election.

Several central government ministers were also sent packing by the voters, some of them close confidants of the hapless Gandhi. The greatest casualties were the controversial and conspiracy-prone home minister, Buta Singh, and the foreign affairs minister, Natwar Singh.

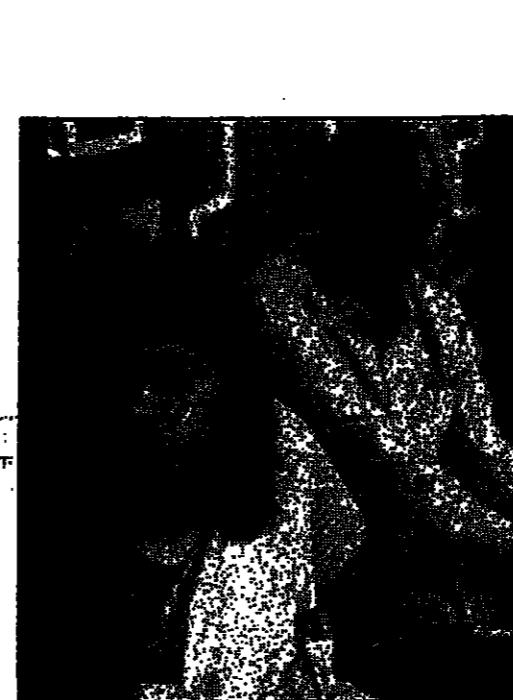
Other losers included the surface transport minister, Rajesh Pilot, the minister for food processing, Jagdish Tytler, and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Balram Bhakar.

Jahakar was electorally thrashed in his Rajasthan constituency of Sikar by one of the principal opposition leaders, Chowdhary Devi Lal, the chief minister of next-door Haryana state.

There was a scattering of Congress victories outside the south. One of the least expected was in Bihar, which generally rejected the ruling party. Indeed, Bihar's only Congress MP out of 54 maybe M.J. Akbar, until recently editor of the English daily paper, the Telegraph, whose editorials strongly resemble Congress pamphlets, only better written.

studied engineering at Imperial College, London.

Rajiv's first career was as a pilot with Indian Airlines and he lived the good life of the Indian elite. That all changed with the death of his brother Sanjay, on whom all Indira's hopes for



People wanted change: The Congress Party was not the only loser in the Indian general election, London's Guardian newspaper reports. It said the main message in the chaotic result is that the voters wanted change, and not only at the national level.

Thus, while the Congress was routed in its northern heartland, it made spectacular gains in the south, where opposition parties hold power at state level. In the four southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala, the Congress vote was expected to hold firm. Instead, it mushroomed, and the party scored an almost clean sweep of the 130 parliamentary seats in the region.

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'He let the family down'

Maneka is celebrating

NEW DELHI. (Reuter): There was at least one happy Gandhi on Wednesday.

Maneka Gandhi was celebrating not only her brother-in-law's downfall as India's prime minister but also her own election as a member of Parliament for the victorious Janata Dal.

"He deserved it because he let the family down," she said of the huge election losses that forced Rajiv and his government to resign.

"I believe Rajiv's time has passed," she said in an interview, although immediately qualified by saying she would not write off his political future entirely.

"In our family we keep bouncing back."

Maneka, entering Parliament as Janata's only woman member after winning her constituency by a 130,000-vote margin, speaks from experience.

She was only 22 when her husband Sanjay, Rajiv's brother, was killed in a light aircraft accident in June 1980. She describes the years since then as an "awful struggle."

Before his death Sanjay was seen as a natural successor to his mother Indira as prime minister but instead, when Indira was assassinated in 1984 the mantle fell on Rajiv, a former airline pilot with almost no political experience.

Maneka made an embarrassing attempt to enter Parliament at elections held that year when Rajiv's Congress Party won a landslide victory on a wave of sympathy for his mother's murder.

In a campaign based on memories of her husband, Maneka stood against Rajiv himself and was soundly beaten.

She said she had learned a hard lesson from the experience but this time around it had been different.

"The people voted for me as myself. Not for Sanjay's widow. Not for the Janata Dal, but for me — Maneka," she said.

An attractive woman with a freckled nose and sharp sense of humour — especially when aimed at her political rivals — she was scathing about Rajiv.

"In our family we may make mistakes but the attainment of power means a deep commitment to the country," she said.

"(Rajiv) was committed to the pursuit of money. I've known him a long time. He's always been the same."

The National Front opposition alliance in the election — spearheaded by the Janata Dal — hammered home allegations of corruption within Rajiv's government.

Maneka says she kept her campaign in the north Indian constituency of Pilibhit clean of smears — and of interference from professional political organisers, a breed she professes to despise but who dominate Indian politics.

"We had lawyers, teachers, farmers, village heads working for us, but no politicians. Politicians are aliens in the villages," she said.

Many political analysts believe a National Front government will offer the forceful Maneka, an ardent supporter of animal rights, a cabinet post.

She agrees there is a chance, the environment portfolio for preference, but adds, "I don't just want to be their mandatory woman in the youth and women's affairs ministry — I don't think ministerial rank is worth that."

India Election Special

Rajiv drops conspiracy charges against Mann

One of last acts as premier

CHANDIGARH, Nov 29. (Agencies): Rajiv Gandhi, in one of his last acts as prime minister, yesterday ordered charges of conspiracy in his mother's assassination dropped against a newly elected Sikh parliamentarian associated with the Punjab separatist movement.

Officials said Rajiv transmitted the instructions to the Home Ministry, pointing out that Simranjit Singh Mann had sworn allegiance to the constitution in order to run for the Tarn Taran seat in the lower house of Parliament, or Lok Sabha.

Rajiv also said the radical offshoot of the Sikh Akali Dal party of

which Mann is president had taken a stand against separatism and violence during the campaign for 13 seats contested in the northern state on Sunday, the officials said.

The caretaker prime minister directed that the charges against Mann of conspiring to assassinate Indira Gandhi be withdrawn and that he be allowed to take his seat in the national legislature.

Punjab government sources said Rajiv had also asked the administration in the eastern state of Bihar to drop charges of sedition against Mann.

Detailed Kerala Results

ADOOR: K. Suresh (Cong-I) defeated N. Rajan (CPI) by 21,542 votes.
CHIRAYINKERI: T. Basheer (Cong-I) defeated Suseela Gopalan (CPM) by 5,131 votes.
ALLEPPEY: Vakkum Purushottaman (Cong-I) defeated K. V. Devadas (CPM) by 25,123 votes.
KAVELIKKARA: Prof. P. J. Kurien (Cong-I) defeated Thampam Thomas (JD) by 57,182 votes.
MILKUNDAPURAM: Savitri Lakshmanan (Cong-I) defeated C. O. Poulose (CPM) by 18,754 votes.
KOTTAYAM: Ramesh Chemtala (Cong-I) defeated Suresh Kurup (CPM) by 53,533 votes.
VADAKARA: K. P. Ummikrishnan (Cong-S) defeated A. Sujanipal (Cong-I) by 8,209 votes.
QUILON: S. Krishnakumar (Cong-I) defeated Babu Divakaran (ISP) by 27,462 votes.
ERNAKULAM: K. V. Thomas (Cong-I) defeated P. S. Potti (Ind) by 36,750 votes.
IDUKKI: Palai K. M. Mathew (Cong-I) defeated M. C. Josephine (CPM) by 41,479 votes.
TRICHUR: P. A. Antony (Cong-I)

Party positions after 518 seats declared.

	191
Janata Dal	136
BJP	89
CPM	32
AIADMK	11
CPI	11
Akali Dal (M)	6
RSP	3
BSP	3
Forward Block	3
JMM	3
National Conference	3
IUML (S)	2
Telugu Desam	2
Congress (S)	1
Indian People's Front	1
IUML (L)	1
Kerala Congress (M)	1
Sikkim Sangram Parishad	1
USP	1
Ind. & Others	1
Total declared	518
Seats Contested	525

(Continued from Page 1)

have asked for BJP support.

"The seat adjustments among the various opposition parties have greatly helped us in defeating the Congress. It is now the sacred duty of all of us to see that this mandate is not frustrated and the formation of non-Congress government is not delayed give effect to the hopes and aspirations of the people," Singh and Rao said in the letter.

They further said: "The National Front has decided to shoulder this responsibility of approaching the President and state its claim to form the new government."

Advani, speaking from a position of strength after his party got 39 seats, said he would like the Front government to "confine its programmes to issues on which their separate manifestos agreed."

The BJP's impatience with Singh and Janata Dal clearly showed up in Advani's remarks. "Ever since its launching, the Janata Dal leadership has been consciously trying to convey to the people that it regards the BJP as a communal party and that it would rather sit in the opposition than share power with it," Advani said.

The Janata Dal's public postures have thwarted the building of any abiding relationship of trust and friendship between our parties.

"If it is acknowledged that the Janata Dal does not regard the BJP as a communal party, that would go a long way in removing misgivings in our rank and file," Advani's letter said.

He was elected to Parliament from Punjab this week along with five other Sikhs associated with the insurrection by extremists demanding the creation of an independent nation of "Khalistan."

Escape

More than 5,000 people have died since 1983 in the campaign by the radicals, who contended that India's 16 million Sikhs require their own nation to escape alleged discrimination by Rajiv's Hindu-dominated central government.

The election of six Sikhs has raised hopes that the extremists are prepared to see whether their grievances can be addressed through legitimate politics.

Among the other newly elected parliamentarians of the Akali Dal (Mann) group are the widow and father of Beant Singh, one of the two Sikh security guards who gunned down Indira in her residential compound.

Beant Singh was shot dead by other bodyguards minutes after the murder. The other assassin, Satwant Singh, was hanged earlier this year along with a conspirator, Kehar Singh.

Rajiv's recommendation was one of his final official acts before resigning as prime minister following the humiliating loss of his parliamentary majority in general elections Nov 22, 24 and 26.

The sources said Rajiv also had asked Punjab governor S.S. Ray to withdraw charges against Atinderal Singh, Mann's co-defendant in the assassination case and one of the Sikhs selected for the Lok Sabha.

Atinderal Singh, the leader of the shadowy Khalistan Commando Force, was also allegedly responsible for a series of deadly bomb blasts across northern India in 1987.

Rajiv's Congress (I) Party has suffered in Punjab because of his inability to implement a July 1985 accord with Sikh leaders that was aimed at ending the Sikh extremist campaign.

His failure to prosecute Hindus involved in the massacre of thousands of Sikhs ignited by his mother's assassination also has contributed to hatred for the prime minister and his party among members of the religious minority.

Another factor that has turned Sikhs against the government is the alleged excesses committed by the tens of thousands of security personnel deployed across the state, which has been ruled directly from New Delhi since Rajiv dismissed a moderate Sikh government in May 1987.

Sikh extremists have won the majority of their state's seats in Parliament, sparking cautious hopes their bloody battle for a separate homeland in Punjab will find a peaceful solution.

In all, Sikh nationalists won nine of Punjab's 13 seats in the Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament.

Six of the winners ran as members of Akali Dal. The three others were independents.

Sikhs now make up two percent of India's 880 million people but have a slight majority over Hindus in Punjab.

Yesterday, fireworks were lit in the Punjab town of Tarn Taran to celebrate the victory of Mann.

Fight stalls Front PM



Celebration time

Opposition supporters celebrate on the top of a bus as they drive through the streets of New Delhi after the resignation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Rajiv and ruling party failed to secure a majority in the recent general elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

great people. The accomplishments of our nation building are the achievements of our people.

Elections are won and lost but the work of a nation never ends. We shall not falter in our resolve to do our duty. I and millions of our Congress workers rededicate ourselves to the cause of India's greatness.

Mahatma Gandhiji and Indira laid down their lives for the unity and integrity of a secular India. India cannot survive without secularism. We will do everything to uphold secular values with all my strength. I shall continue to serve the people of India.

Agencies adds: The election was preceded by ferocious Hindu-Muslim riots fomented by a dispute over a sacred site claimed by both faiths. India's 100 million Muslims, upset by Rajiv's handling of the issue, deserted Congress in droves.

Rajiv, calm and studied and clad in sparkling white, applauded the 498-million Indian electorate, the world's biggest, despite the violence that plagued the poll.

"The elections have shown that democracy is very strong and deeply rooted in India," he said.

Rajiv, whose mother Indira was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards in 1984, even praised nine hardline Sikh separatists who ran and won in the northern state of Punjab.

He welcomed the election of "those who swore by the gun and the bullet just a few years ago."

Rajiv's resignation, which was a formality, cleared the way for the National Front opposition alliance to try to form the next government of the world's most populous democracy.

But new disputes emerged among members of the centrist alliance.

The National Front and its allies picked up enough pledges of support from smaller parties for an informal majority.

It wants to form a minority government based on support from its allies when votes are taken in parliament.

But the divergent smaller parties, representing the political spectrum from the far-right to the far-left, have little in common beside their dislike of Rajiv and his party.

Rajiv and the Congress Party are gambling that the National Front will be unable to form a government because of internal squabbling, paving the way for Congress to return to power.

Congress legislators met tonight and unanimously re-elected Rajiv as their parliamentary leader, putting Rajiv in line to become prime minister if the opposition fails and the President asks him to form a government.

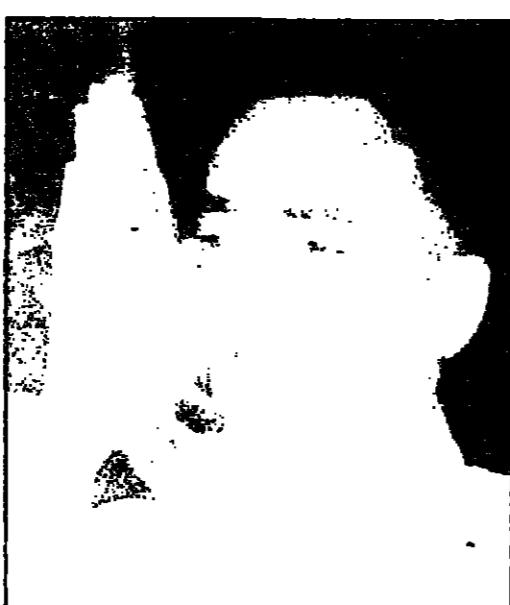
دنیا کی سب سے دلکش مسکرا ہے
اب کراجی تک آپ کی ہمسفر



Indian opposition leaders (left to right) Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Devi Lal, N.T. Rama Rao and V.P. Singh hold a meeting at the National Front headquarters. (Reuter wirephoto)



President R. Venkataraman will now decide who will form the next government. (Reuter wirephoto)



Rajiv greets parliament members from Congress Party. (Reuter wirephoto)



مکاری کی سب سے دلکش مسکرا ہے
اب کراجی تک آپ کی ہمسفر

Lufthansa

Professor Ranga, elected for ninth time, sets record

NEW DELHI, Nov 29. (Kuna): A 90-year-old politician Professor Ranga was elected to the Indian Parliament for a record ninth time. He is all set to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.

Ranga was elected with an impressive margin of over 100,000 votes from the Guntur parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh.

Ranga started his political career in 1930

when he became a member of the Constitutional Assembly under the British rule. An Oxford student, he later became a professor of economics.

Ranga also contributed a great deal to the peasant movement.

In 1991, he expects to celebrate the golden jubilee of his immaculate political career — setting a record of sorts.

The Union Jack, which was fluttering on the Indian Parliament, was finally removed by the young Ranga on the historic day when India gained independence on Aug 15, 1947.

Ranga was elected with an impressive margin of over 100,000 votes from the Guntur parliamentary constituency in Andhra Pradesh.

Ranga started his political career in 1930

Chennai 500 050

Treat for music lovers

ARAXIA DAVTIAN, a world renowned opera star, and Diana Mkrtschian, an internationally famous pianist, will be performing on December 4 at the Kuwait International Hotel.

Davitian, soprano, has rose to prominence in the West within the last two seasons, making her European and American debuts in 1987 with the violinist and conductor, Vladimir Spivakov, and the Moscow virtuosi. Davtian is a graduate of the Yerevan State Conservatory and a popular soloist with Armenian Radio and Television.

In 1984, Davtian took first prize in the Voitti competition and in 1986 she was invited to sing with the Bolshoi Opera,

where she debuted as Violetta in *La Traviata*.

Well known for her Mozart, Davtian sang in the Rotterdam Philharmonic's Mozart Festival during last summer and in the summer of 1990 she will appear at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. It was in Mozart too that she created a sensation in the American press when she toured with Moscow virtuosi last October.

Mkrtschian, pianist, took her degree from the Yerevan Conservatory in 1971, where she currently serves as a professor of piano. She has worked extensively as an accompanist for many distinguished singers and has also participated in

numerous international competitions.

In 1984, she was awarded first prize at the Voitti competition for her collaboration with Davtian.

In their performance on December 4, at 8:00 pm in the Kuwait International Hotel's Grand Ballroom, pieces of different operas will be performed in Italian, English, Russian and Armenian. A reception dinner is included.

The performance is being sponsored by Boodai Aviation and the Kuwait International Hotel. For tickets contact: 2426319 (Boodai Aviation) or 2530000 ext 8039 (Kuwait International).



Musical night with Adnan Butt

A MUSICAL function was arranged under the patronage of Al Mulla Rentals at the residence of Sohail Butt in Falahheel last Thursday.

The function was arranged in honour of Adnan Butt a popular radio, television and stage singer from Pakistan who is equally popular in his native Lahore as well as Karachi.

The function was attended by a wide cross-section of music lovers. Due to his popularity and public response, a larger function is now being arranged on Friday, December 15 at Ramada Al Salam Hotel at 6:00 pm. Those interested to attend the function may contact 474955, 3919720, 3610088 or 5712731 for details.

Scholars awarded

THE Kuwait Indian Cultural Congress (KICC) will organise a public function to mark the finale of the Nehru Centenary celebrations at the Indian embassy auditorium today, Thursday the Nov 30, at 6.30 pm, according to a press release by Shri John Manduram, Gen. Secretary of the OICC.

As announced earlier, three students from the Indian schools who scored the topmost marks in aggregate on the last CBSE examination for the 10th standard will be awarded gold medals. The students are Mater Lee Simpson, New Indian School, Jasmin Mary Jacob, the Indian School and Reena Mary Mathew, Carmel School.

The meeting will be presided over by Shri Vargese Mathai, Secretary of Information, the Indian embassy. Shri George Tharakan, customer relation manager, Air India, Shri J.A.S. Newton, director of the Indian School, Shri S.S.N. Gangu, principal, the New Indian School.

Following this, a variety entertainment programme will be conducted. Nithyanand under the guidance of Girija Radhakrishnan will present the Bharatha Natyam, Opera, Mohiniyattam, Kerala Suthy etc., and Ambika Surya Narayanan will present the patriotic song by renowned poet Vallathol. Admittance is free.

CINEMA TODAY

FRIDAY	
Al Andulus	Arabic film
Sahiyah	Space Mutiny
Al Hama	Low Blow
Drive-in	Arabic film
Al Firdous	Ram-o-Rama
Fahlaheel Open	Fahlaheel Open
Kihani Phoolan Ki	Kihani Phoolan Ki
Fahlaheel	Ayan Aadlat
Ayan Aadlat	Al Jabra
Al Jabra	Arabic film
Frico King	Granada
Granada	Blow out
Hanyar	Solalikhat
Solalikhat	Dowthym
Dowthym	Jeeva
Jeeva	Maa Betti
Maa Betti	Alma's Drive-in
Alma's Drive-in	Arabic film

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.00 am
Zohar	11.37
Asr	2.30 pm
Maghreb	4.49
Isha	6.11

FRIDAY

Fajr	5.01 am
Friday prayer	11.37
Asr	2.30 pm
Maghreb	4.49
Isha	6.11

Xmas tree

CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to invite them to their annual Xmas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11:30am onwards. Asumptuous buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12:00pm sharp.

Xmas tree '89
DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual Xmas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11:30am onwards. Asumptuous buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12:00pm sharp.

Shared Mela
AFTER successfully organising Deep-Dewali Satska is now going to organise Sharad Mela at Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on 1st December 1989 at 10:00 am. There will be food stalls of delicious cuisines along with fun and games stalls for children. The big attraction will be two Grand Rattle Draws with a Game of Bingo. For entry passes and further information contact, Brij Vallabh - 251046, or V.K. Agarwal - 5728621.

Ahmad Music Society
The Ahmadi Music Society proudly presents its 21st Carol Concert at 8 pm on Monday and Tuesday Dec 11 and 12, 1989. A special children's carol concert will be held at 5.30 pm on Saturday Dec 9, 1989. Venue Kuwait Little Theatre, Ahmadi. For ticket reservations ring 3983964.

German-speaking Cultural Association

TRADITIONAL bazaar for all — with beautiful handicrafts will be held on Thursday, Nov 30, 5 pm, at Kuwait International Hotel's Old Failaka Room.

The next regular coffee morning for German-speaking ladies will take place on Sunday, Dec 3, 10 am, at the same venue.

The association's next event will be the St Nicholas Party on Thursday, Dec 7, 3 pm, at International Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Tickets for this event will be available at the bazaar, German embassy and at the coffee morning.

Filcheck awarding Ceremonies

TOURNAMENT committee chairperson, Chito Barrios, announced that due to unavoidable circumstances, the awarding ceremonies for the recently concluded Filcheck First Active Chess Tournament originally scheduled for Friday, 1st December 1989 has been postponed to Friday, 15th December at 9:30am at the new Kalyan Restaurant. Other details will be published later.

However, the annual elections will be held as scheduled on Friday, 1st December at 9:00 am. All members are requested to come in uniform.

For details: Sammy B. Aurellano (Tel: 2402405).

PPC's democracy week

The Pakistani People's Club will celebrate the first anniversary of the restoration of democracy by Benazir Bhutto's Prime Minister elected government on Dec 2, 1988. Announcing this Riaz Ahmed Maheesh said that meetings and outdoor musical programme will be arranged for men and women wings of the club.

All members are requested to contact Mr Rafiq Ahmed Mirza. For children sports events are arranged by PPC sports committee.

KOSA meeting

KOSA Annual General Meeting — 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.

Xmas celebrations

DEC 15: United Goan's Centre will have their annual Xmas celebrations at the Al Salam Hotel on Friday December 15th '89 from 10 am onwards (Al Deira). Special package of fun, games awaits the young as well as the old. A variety of entertainment for the children. Call on us for early booking and avoid disappointment. Contact Tony: 2612024/ Moses: 224293.

Canadian Women's League

DEC 2: An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting to be held Saturday, December 2 from 4 to 6 pm in Jabiya. For more information please call 5315655 or 2563025.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore. Contact Columbus on 4348218.

Children's competition at IAC

THE result of the qualifying round of the children's competition held in Indian Arts Circle were already announced on 17-11-1989. The results are displayed in all schools and Indian Arts Circle. The finale will take place on 30-11-89, 15-12-89, 27-12-89, 28-12-89 at Indian Arts Circle. For more information please contact on telephone nos. 3904817 or 3622359.

Christmas Cantata

THE English Language congregation choir of the National Evangelical Church will sing the Christmas Musical "Meet Him in the Manger" on 5th Wed. and 10th Sunday at 6 pm please plan to attend one of these evenings and celebrate the advent season.

IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 1st January '90 respectively. For more details please contact Indian Schools.

Radha and Raja

INDIA's finest Kuchipudi Dancers Dr Radha and Dr Raja Reddi are going to present their dance performance on 7th and 8th of December at Indian Arts Circle Auditorium. For details please contact 3904817.

ACT Auditions

AUDITIONS for ACT's upcoming production of "The Skin of Our Teeth" will be held Wednesday, December 6th from 7.30 to 9.30 and Thursday, December 7th from 3.00 to 5.00. The production is scheduled for Feb 20 - 22nd. Parts are available to suit your abilities and schedule. Any person interested in getting involved please call 562032 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm for more details.

Music Night

MUSIC Night at "The Longest Traveller." A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

Ladies International League

2ND Big Meeting — Tuesday 5th December at Sheraton Hotel in Ballroom A from 7 pm - 10 pm. Our programme this month will be a Winter Party and Mini Bazaar. Raffle and door prizes as well as many other prizes too. Why not come along and join in on the fun. Bring your friends and enjoy a social evening in a relaxed atmosphere meeting other people and making new friends. All ladies welcome. There will be a charge at the door.

Opera Star

ARAXIA Davtian, a world renowned Opera Star, and Diana Mkrtschian, an internationally famous pianist will be performing at the Kuwait International Hotel on December 4 in the Grand Ballroom. The programme will be starting at precisely 8.00 pm. A reception dinner is included. Tickets available from Boodai Aviation: 2426319 and Kuwait

International Hotel: 253000 ext 8039.

The Weekend Club

KEEP your dates with the Weekend Club for the "summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fit and the "Red & Black Nite" on the first day of Eid Al Adha.

Kuwait Goans

DEC 15: Annual children's Xmas tree function will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Friday, December 15/89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises await for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance.

To avoid disappointment call for early bookings on 2413348.

Wife Nite

KONKANI Musical show on Thursday, 30 November will be held at 6.30 pm at the Indian Arts Circle Funaites.

British Council

STORY time: Thursday, 30 Nov. 10.30 am. Come and enjoy the magic of books with a professional story teller. Children of all nationalities of ages 3 - 7 are invited. Please book seats by calling 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

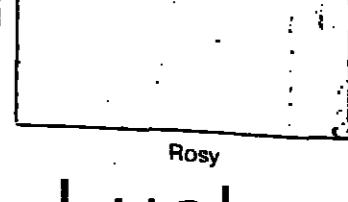
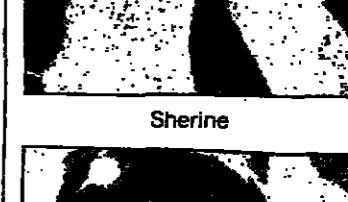
Danielle Children's Party

ALL Dames in Kuwait are invited for the annual children's party "Juletrae" to be held at the Gazelle Club on Friday December 15 at 3 pm. Tickets to be purchased from Inge on 27/688 ext 207 or Winnie on 27/3382 before December 10.

SPORTS

Mitsubishi Pajero Bowling Tournament

THE Mitsubishi Pajero Bowling Tournament sponsored by Al Mulla Group of Companies and presented by Kuwait International Hotel is scheduled for 2nd December. The tournament will be among 6 different banks of Kuwait with each team comprising of 7 contestants. Representatives of each team met with the PR Managers of Al Mulla, and Kuwait International to finalise details of the event. It will be held at the KIH eight lane ten pin bowling alley at 6.00 pm.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Focus on pension scheme

(Continued from Page 16)

Your main consideration should be long-term security, tax-efficiency, profitability and, in this unstable world of ours, freedom to adjust to changing circumstances — flexibility.

Gambling in futures, options or high-risk funds is out of the question — the consequences of losing the gamble are too catastrophic to contemplate. Also, don't be too concerned about changes (within reason, of course). The company managing your retirement plan should make a reasonable profit, also other factors they won't be around in three five years and low-risk Blue Chip Funds should form about 40 per cent of your fund, with the remaining 60 per cent in low to medium risk equities, widely spread over a range of industries and geographical locations.

You cannot even afford to take as much risk as the occupational scheme managers, since your input time is fixed and only your own contributions and growth thereon can be applied for your benefit. To compensate for this, however, is the lack of restriction on you at maturity — the normal onshore mechanism for actually providing the pension at retirement date is to buy "Compulsory Purchase Annuity" from an institution and this restriction does not apply to you. That factor alone can work greatly to your advantage since Annuity rates for sixty-year-olds are abysmal!

Finally, a word or warning — the subject of pension may very well apply to you also. The extended family principle has been shown to break down very quickly in an atmosphere of rapid industrial development and its consequent "mobility of labour" requirements.

The rate at which Kuwait and other industrial centres are growing and the percentages of people not indigenous and not having families in those particular centres bodes ill for the younger "incomers" who may be putting all their eggs in that "family basket."

Dollar lower, gold higher

LONDON, Nov 29, (AP): The US dollar fell today against all major currencies in moderate European trading, but in late trading it recovered some of its losses in profit-taking. Gold prices rose.

The West German mark, which has surged since East Germany opened the Berlin Wall on Nov 9, continued to capture the market's attention as dealers sought to take profits.

Europe's efforts to drive the mark lower were thwarted Tuesday by fresh buying of New York. The opening of the Berlin Wall has raised expectations that West German industry will benefit from the new opening to the East.

"There is no suggestion that this is the end of the mark rally," said a senior dealer at a US investment bank. But the mark's recent surge, he said, has been "difficult to rationalise."

In Tokyo, the dollar fell 0.12 Japanese yen to a closing 143.53 yen. Later, in London, it fell further to 143.15 yen.

Other late dollar rates in Europe compared with late Tuesday:

■ 1.7825 West German marks, down from 1.7880

■ 1.5895 Swiss francs, down from 1.5950

■ 6.0810 French francs, down from 6.1035

■ 2.0100 Dutch guilders, down from 2.0270

■ 1.315.50 Italian lire, down from 1.319.50

■ 1.1658 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1674

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.5655 from \$1.5625 late Tuesday.

Gold bullion edged higher in moderate trading.

AI Khaled invited

KUWAIT, Nov 29, (Kuna): Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul-Razzaq Al Khaled today received an invitation to visit Egypt from Egyptian Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Youssouf Moustapha to attend the opening of the 23rd international Cairo fair next March 23.

Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait Saeed Mahmoud Rifat delivered the invitation during a meeting with Al Khaled.

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More room for Opec oil on world markets

Lukman sees declines in US, Soviet oil output

VIENNA, Nov 29, (Reuters): Lower US and Soviet oil production next year should help Opec sales, Rilwanu Lukman, president of the exporters' group, said today.

He told reporters that Opec, at its semi-annual meeting here this week, was cautious in setting production quotas for the first half of 1990 but was still assuming Soviet and US output would drop at least one million barrels per day (BPD).

Lukman, who is also Nigeria's Oil Minister, said that informed sources estimated output would decline by 500,000 BPD each in the United States and the Soviet Union next year, making more room for Opec oil on world markets.

"We can think about that (level) but we think the figures will be higher than that," he added.

He was speaking a day after the fractious 13-member group lifted its overall official production ceiling for the first six months of 1990 to 22 million BPD, up from 20.5 million, and adopted a minimum target price of \$18 a barrel.

In the bizarre workings of the oil market, however, the higher quotas are actually meant to trim the amount of Opec oil flooding into world markets.

The reason largely is that Kuwait, a major Gulf producer, agreed to keep to its 1.5 million BPD quota, and Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest exporter,

Japan hails Opec accord

TOKYO, Nov 29, (Kuna): Japanese officials today praised the agreement reached by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), saying that it will not affect the international market.

Referring to Opec's agreement yesterday to raise oil production of its members to 22 million barrels per day for the first half of 1990, the officials also welcomed the decision to raise Kuwait's share from 1.1 million barrels per day to 1.5 million.

The officials noted that Kuwait's acceptance of the new quota indicated that Opec is stepping forward to re-establish its power as a unified organisation.

The officials also underlined that the new production agreement reflected "political considerations" that Opec will maintain oil prices at \$18 per barrel as the lowest price for crude oil.

pledged not to raise its exports.

Present Opec production is now above 23 million BPD.

Lukman said that Opec's estimate that demand for Opec oil would be 21.7 million BPD in

the first three months of the new year was realistic and perhaps too low.

"I personally think the estimate is very much on the conservative side," he said.

Over the longer term, Lukman said it was in Opec's interest not to see oil prices jump sharply.

"Ultimately, we would like to see \$18 sustained in real terms, but you must take into account competition" from alternative fuels.

"We would prefer a gentle increase in prices over the longer term," he added.

World oil prices fell despite an agreement by Opec in Vienna yesterday setting a crude oil output ceiling of just over 22 million barrels per day for the first six months of 1990.

The pact, signed by all 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, failed to convince the world's oil markets that the group can

absorb crude oil supplies enough to drive the average price of Opec crude up to its target of \$18 a barrel.

Opec's current ceiling is 20.5 million barrels daily.

The deal, which took six days to hammer out in Vienna, does not solve the problem of chronic overproduction.

Crude oil prices in the United States dropped 38 cents a barrel to \$19.25 for the benchmark grade West Texas Intermediate on the New York Mercantile Exchange. US prices are higher than the Opec benchmark, due mainly to shipment costs from oil fields to North America.

Oil industry analysts said the thorny problem of overprodu-

tion remains unsettled and Opec volumes remain high enough to set the stage for potentially large price declines when world demand falls next spring.

"The (pact) should be a modest negative for oil markets in the near-term," said C.J. Lawrence, analyst Charles Maxwell.

"It denotes a failure by Opec once again to deal forthrightly with the pressing issue of quota reallocation among producers," he added.

Analysts widely expect the first true test of the new agreement to come at the end of the first quarter when oil demand typically declines as the weather warms and the world economy is expected to slow.

Sheikh Ali lauds Opec's new spirit of co-operation

Kuwait to stick to new Opec accord

VIENNA, Nov 29, (Kuna): Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa described the last Opec ministerial conference as a turning point in the history of the organisation and expressed deep satisfaction with the meeting's outcome.

Speaking at a press conference held here yesterday, the Kuwaiti official welcomed the council's decision to upgrade Kuwait's oil production quota to 1.5 million barrels per day within the organisation's new ceiling of 22 million bpd for the first half of next year.

Hailing the national and realistic spirit that prevailed the atmosphere, Sheikh Ali said such spirit lays the grounds of an optimistic attitude in the Opec's future meetings and decisions.

Kuwait, he added, is fully prepared to adhere to the new Opec agreement, which can be considered a good step in case of commitment by all member countries.

Sheikh Ali hoped that the world oil market will be run by a total of three countries, including Kuwait, during the few coming years. Sheikh Ali stressed that the most important aspect for establishing lasting price stability was the "spirit of co-operation" within Opec.

Opec production ceiling, Sheikh Ali expected, will reach a level of 22.5 million bpd during the first quarter of the next year because some members will exceed their production quota such as the United Arab Emirates, while other countries will not be able to produce their official quotas.

He also expected a rise in the Opec production to 24 million bpd during the last quarter of 1991 as a result of rise in demand.



Oil ministers of Iraq, Issam Abdul-Razzaq Al-Chalabi (left), Hisham Mohiddin Nazer of Saudi Arabia (centre) and Sheikh Khalifa of Kuwait leave their conference room after talks during a full Opec meeting in Vienna. (Reuter wirephoto)

Sheikh Ali hoped the UAE would join the Opec agreement, indicating in this regard to ongoing efforts to urge the emirates to accept the agreement in the interest of the organisation and its member states.

Adherence to the agreement by all members, he stressed, would help stabilise oil prices, which are expected to rise if the member countries demonstrated spirit of full solidarity and responsibility toward the new agreement.

The Kuwaiti delegation, chaired by Sheikh Ali, played a major role in

bringing the conference to success by accepting Kuwait's new quota of 1.5 million bpd, which is a modest level compared to Kuwait's real trade and technical potentials.

A similar role was played by the delegation regarding side consultations and bilateral talks aimed at overcoming the obstacles facing the agreement, materialising Kuwait's keenness on solidarity among member states.

An atmosphere of co-ordination between the GCC oil ministers to

render the conference a success through concluding an agreement.

The Opec's ministerial council ended its meetings here yesterday after having reached an agreement on production ceiling — 22 million bpd — and an official price of \$18 per barrel during the first half of the next year.

On London's International Petroleum Exchange, which closed before announcement of the Opec accord, Britain's North Sea Brent crude for January delivery fell 15 cents to \$18.29 a barrel.

Matsushita leaves record \$1.75b legacy

TOKYO, Nov 29, (Agencies): Konosuke Matsushita, founder of Matsushita Electric Industrial Company, who died in April at the age of 94, left 244.9 billion yen (\$1.75 billion) to his heirs, local media reports said, quoting the National Tax Agency Office in Osaka.

Most of the legacy was expected to be in the form of shares in Matsushita's group companies, Kyodo News Agency said today.

Matsushita's wife, Mumeno, 93, will inherit 122.5 billion yen (\$87.5 million), his 68-year-old daughter 44.6 billion yen (\$31.8 million), and five other beneficiaries will share the rest.

Tax officials declined to specify the total amount of inheritance tax, but said the widow's share is tax-free while the others must pay up to 70 per cent of their shares.

The Matsushita business group, consisting of Matsushita Electric Industrial and its 147 subsidiaries world-wide, had consolidated sales of 5.45 trillion yen (\$37.98 billion) in fiscal 1988, which ended March 31.

Matsushita rose from poverty to found the business group and become Japan's leading post-World War II industrialist.

An orphan, Matsushita started his company in 1918 with one product — an electric light socket of his own design, three employees and capital of about \$50.

Today, in tens of thousands of stores around the world, Matsushita products are sold under the brand names of Panasonic and National. The more than 14,000 products range from electric batteries and rice cookers to videotape recorders and computer chips.

Gorbachev may seek economic concession

Soviet leader won't bring begging bowl

LONDON, Nov 29, (Reuters): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will want to chip away at cold war trade barriers when he meets President George Bush off Malta this weekend but he has made clear he won't be bringing a begging bowl.

Facing a stagnating economy at home and seeing his own reforms overtaken by the breakneck pace of change elsewhere in the Eastern bloc, Gorbachev is expected to step up his campaign to integrate the Soviet economy more closely with the West.

"Gorbachev will be pulling out all the stops because of the dire state of the economy," said Martin McCauley of London University's School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

"And for Bush there could be a lot of mileage in helping Moscow out of the mess," McCauley added.

But political analysts said Soviet officials have made it plain Moscow is not ready to enter into a deal to secure aid in return for economic and political reforms — the model the West is pursuing with Poland, Hungary and East Germany.

In a clear rebuff last month, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said talk of Western aid "offends our pride."

"The Soviet Union is not going to stand for the basic policy of conditionality that is being forced on Eastern Europe," said Jim Rollo, economist at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London.

Instead, political analysts say Gorbachev's strategy will be to argue that trade and economic relations between the superpowers have to be on a normal commercial footing and restrictions of the cold war era should be lifted.

The dash towards democracy in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia has certainly set the stage for a sweeping review of the West's economic barriers which for four decades kept the superpowers at arms length.

Bush has so far reacted with caution, warning that it is difficult to forecast events in the Eastern bloc even 10 days ahead and sensing that the economic crisis in the Soviet Union will put Gorbachev very much on the defensive.

But analysts believe Bush will also want to signal his support for reform and could choose to waive punitive tariffs on Soviet exports, widely seen as a relic of the cold war era.

The summit, on US and Soviet warships off the coast of Malta, will be the first meeting between the two since Bush entered the White House in January and looks set to be dominated by political and military implications of the East bloc turmoil.

Washington has sought to play down the potential savings from US defence cuts and tried to soothe Nato fears of a surprise news arms deal without Europe's agreement.

But for Gorbachev a cut in arms spending — which Western analysts estimate takes up to 17 per cent of Soviet gross national product — would relieve a big strain on the budget.

Arms considerations aside, analysts still say there are three main areas in which Gorbachev will be seeking economic concessions from Washington, with trade topping the list.

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Tehran and China sign trade pact

NICOSIA, Nov 29. (AP): China has agreed to co-operate with Iran on projects for a paper factory, a tyre plant and a power station in Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported today.

It said the letter of understanding was signed at the conclusion of a three-day trip to Tehran by the Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Zheng Tuobin. He left today.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the two sides also agreed that trade between China and Iran will now be paid for with hard currency, replacing the barter system used until now.

Zheng said trade between the two nations was expected to amount to about \$600 million in 1990, the same figure as this year.

Earlier, the Chinese official told his Iranian hosts that other economic co-operation agreements signed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani during his visit to Beijing also would be implemented.

Rafsanjani, then the country's Parliament speaker, visited China in June 1985.

The Chinese are expected to get large reconstruction projects in return for their close ties with Iran during the eight-year Gulf war.

China was one of Tehran's largest arms suppliers during the war, when Iran faced an arms embargo by the United States and other Western countries.

Meanwhile, an Iranian trade delegation is in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for talks on economic and trade co-operation, the official emirates news agency Wam said today.

Tight liquidity

KD deposit rates firm

KUWAIT, Nov 29. (Reuter): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates firms across the board in moderate trade today as operators covered positions amid tightening liquidity.

Dealers said a new issue of 150 million dinars of 91-day Kuwaiti treasury bills did not have much impact as a previous issue was rolled over on the same day.

Banks also bought treasury bills on the secondary market at 3-3/8 per cent to help cover day-to-day positions.

Overnight funds dealt at 8-1/2 per cent, after business of 8-3/8 on Tuesday. Tomorrow-next, spot-next and one-week were all well-bid at 8-3/8, with quotes firming 1/8 point on the offer side to 8-3/4, 3/8.

The one-month firm 1/8 point to 8-5 8, 3 8 per cent. Two-months to one-year were marked up 1/16 point to 8-9 16, 5 16. Business was reported in the six-months at 8-1/2.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate firmer to 0.296516, to the dollar from 0.296686 on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, short-dated Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates eased today based on technical factors and the market was extremely quiet, dealers said.

Spot-next value date Saturday was quoted as 6-13 16, 1/2 as banks in the kingdom tried to get rid of their excess liquidity for the European weekend, when there is nowhere outside the Gulf to place them. One week was seen not much changed around 7-7 8, 1/2 per cent.

Fived periods were mostly stable with one month seen around 8-8 16, eight per cent and three months to one year 8-8 17-16 per cent.

The spot riyal value date Saturday was quoted around 3.7513-16 against the dollar.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Nov 29. (Kuwait): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.29626	0.29741
Sterling	0.46023	0.46041
DM	0.18525	0.18543
Fr	0.18564	0.18676
Ft	0.04591	0.046859
Ita	0.000240	0.000270
Japan	0.092681	0.09274
Barbados	0.78562	0.78599
U.S. dollar	0.78562	0.78599
S. Korea	0.081340	0.081370
U.S. dollar	0.081345	0.081750
U.S. dollar	0.6920	0.77285

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Nov 29. (Kuwait): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

	Offered
1 month	8.5-16
3 months	8.5-16
6 months	8.1-14
1 year	8.1-14
2 years	8.1-12

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.600
Sri Lankan rupee	7.530
Pakistani rupee	14.030
Bangladesh taka	9.130
U.S. dollar	29730
Pound sterling	46675
UAE dirham	08092
Deutsche mark	16685
Japanese yen	002079

Jordan cuts new deal with bank creditors

AMMAN, Nov 29. (Reuter): Jordan has agreed debt rescheduling terms with a steering committee of bank creditors grouped in the London Club, banking sources said today.

They said the 90 or so Western and Arab banks involved would probably approve the deal, which gives Jordan easier terms than those originally agreed in principle more than 11 weeks ago.

Then Amman pledged to pay interest of about \$80 million due in 1989 by the end of the year. Banks will now let it defer payment of half the total until the first quarter of 1990, the sources said.

The initial September agreement had said banks would defer repayments of \$575 million of principal due from January

provide new loans worth \$50 million at 13-16 point over Libor, the sources added.

They expected Jordan to make an initial interest payment of \$20 million today or Thursday and 20 million on Dec 15. It would pay \$16 million on Jan 10, 13 million on Feb 15 and the balance by March 31.

The sources said the banks had also cut their management fees, but no details were available.

Jordanian officials declined to comment but they confirmed last week that a new accord was being discussed.

The initial September agreement had said banks would defer repayments of \$575 million of principal due from January

1, 1989 to June 30, 1991 on debts of \$1.1 billion.

But Jordan's cabinet refused to approve the terms. The Finance Ministry then sought to cut the agreed interest margin from 13/16 point over Libor to 5/8 point and asked banks to release about \$48 million in undisbursed loans.

The latest agreement does not alter the interest rate, described by one source as "bargain basement", but the new money element will net Jordan roughly what it would have received if the undisbursed parts of current loans had been forthcoming.

Jordan's foreign debt was \$8.2 billion at

the end of 1988, including \$1.1 billion in undisbursed loans. Before rescheduling it faced repayments of \$1.21 billion this year and 1.28 billion in 1990.

It reached a rescheduling agreement with the Paris Club of government creditors in July and has since signed five bilateral accords with club members.

Gulf International Bank, B.S.C. and Standard Chartered Bank are co-chairs of the London Club steering committee set up in July. Other members are Banque Nationale De Paris, Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co and Union Des Banques Arabes et Francaises (U.B.A.F.).

\$938m aid for Poland, Hungary

Bush signs aid package

WASHINGTON, Nov 29. (UPI): President Bush signed a \$938 million three-year aid package for Poland and Hungary yesterday, saying the funds must be "seed money" to put the two Eastern European nations on the road to economic reform.

Bush signed the measure at nearby Blair House, the President's guest house, where he hosted a send-off reception for the 50-member US economic delegation to Poland.

"We've got to recognise the fact that dollars alone won't make the difference," Bush said. "Our aid must be seed money for free market reform and for the involvement of our private sector."

He told the delegation, which will provide economic advice to Poland's new non-communist government, of the need for economic reforms of other nations beginning major economic reforms should be aware of

"reform is not an overnight proposal," but one that requires months or even years to complete.

"One of the messages that I will

certainly deliver in Poland, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, if I travel there, is patience is an imperative. One will not achieve economic reform in these countries overnight. It's probably three- to five-year process at a minimum, in some areas, more than that."

Congress has authorized up to \$938 million in food and economic aid to Poland and Hungary this fiscal year. The package was approved shortly after Polish labour leader Lech Walesa visited Washington earlier this month.

Mosbacher said he believed some of the business leaders on the mission were considering investments in Poland.

Yeutter said the mission, on its return to the United States, would provide "some immediate recommendations" for Bush. Mosbacher said the trip would include further discussions on how to encourage US business investment in Poland.

It is to provide economic advice to Poland's new government and look for ways to ease the transition to a free market system. Dole cautioned there could be "some pain, some difficulties" before the benefits of reform were realised.

Fitzwater said that a 24-nation group set up last summer to support reform in Poland and Hungary have pledged "upwards of \$8 billion" in financial commitments to support economic reform and restructuring of the two countries.

Fitzwater said based on informal tallies, "roughly three-quarters of the \$8 billion" was slated for Poland. The group, created at the Paris economic summit in July, includes the United States, Japan, Canada, the European Economic Community and other industrialised democracies.

In a two-page statement yesterday, Bush said: "Congress has crafted a

bill responsive to my requests, as well

as providing a number of additional programmes, all designed to support our national goal to help the cause of economic and political freedom in Poland and Hungary."

Included in the package is medical aid, private enterprise funds to help develop private businesses in the two countries, the first use of peace corps workers in the two nations, and \$125 million for food assistance. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said it \$30 million food for peace agreement would be signed Thursday in Poland.

Yeutter said Poles and residents of other nations beginning major economic reforms should be aware of

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Just a kid

Film-makers take to locations

Stepping out into uncertainty

By Firoze Rangoonwala



Ektaa with Chunky at a party.

WHILE the controlled conditions of a studio-made set may enable smooth shooting, it also looks very phoney when the director is trying to show an outdoor location. No amount of effects, lights or groups of extras can bring the skyline, sunlight and reality of faces. So film-makers have to take their entire units on outdoor locations, near or far. The more spectacular it looks, the better it is to combat the threat of the small video screen.

But on outdoors, the stars have to face heat, dust and unruly crowds. Many are the legends about how old stars fought or tamed the mob which gathered to see them and the shooting. Recent examples show how the young new stars tackle the fans (and foes) and the return treatment they get. At the outdoors for "Solah Satra", the crowd became so wild that director Mumtaz Rizvi could not do a thing, while a hefty chap like Arbaaz Khan (son of Ajit) was beaten and the slim svelte Ektaa's modesty was badly outraged. Sunny is also known for losing his temper with the public, and fighting, like papa Dharmendra used to do once.

On the other hand at the locations for "Yugandhar", directed by N. Chandra for Shrikant Sharma, huge crowd of two to three thousand gathered in Jaipur and its lovely gardens. Yet, they were kept charmed by bearded hero Mithun. College students having their own elections did cause cancellations of shooting. Mithun would bravely walk into the midst of the crowd, request and pacify them. And then he even made them stand and act for the camera. A "real" background was obtained and the producer got free "extras". Mithun knows that N. Chandra could get him a hit like "Tezaab".

In contrast, for the Amitabh starrer "Kaun Suni Fariyad" by K.C. Bokadia, the art directors re-created Udaipur locales on the vast grounds of Bombay's Chitra Nagari at Goregaon. For two months, workers were busy cutting clusters of trees to make way for the big set. Here, too, crowds could not be totally avoided though Film City has now enforced a strict system of the producers issuing passes, of a particular colour, for their guests and visitors. Yet, the suburban grounds are so open and there are so many entry points, that people gather somehow or the other.

Amitabh took it all rather coolly, though Suresh Oberoi could not control his temper. Moreover, the scene showed Suresh tied to a bullock cart and hammered by goondas.

Amitabh's act was to jump, kick and hit the villains who tried to molest Priti Sapru. Earlier, they filmed the rape and murder of Radhika playing Amitabh's sister, which leads to the usual tale of vengeance. Jaya Prada is the heroine, while the main villain is Arunish Puri and a scene of his

being tied and dragged behind a speeding jeep was also picturised on the wide set. The shooting went on for more than a month. Another Amitabh film "Hum" produced by ex-actor Ramesh Sharma and directed by Mukul Anand is currently being shot at South's hill station Ooty in Nilgiri mountains. Romantic and action scenes as well as a couple of songs are being filmed on Amit, Kimi, Rajnikant, Govinda, Shilpa Shirodkar etc. The film is being presented (distributed) by Dinesh Gandhi, a diamond merchant who struck a gold-mine with "Tezaab".

Subhash Ghai's "Ram Lakhan" was also handled by a diamond dealer Bharat Shah. Many attractive scenes of "Tridev" as well as "Ram Lakhan" were shot at Ooty.

After the success of "Chandni," mainly due to its colourful outdoors in Switzerland, apart from its gorgeous sets, dresses, decor and other locations, many producers are tempted to take off for Kashmir, Kulu, Kodaikanal, Simla, or at least near-by Khandala to bring picturesque appeal, which can only be enjoyed on the big screen. While in Switzerland, Yash Chopra was very tense seeing the amount of work to be done in a foreign country, but his stars Sri Devi and Rishi put him at ease that they would give as much time as he needed.

In "Silsila", Yash had captured the flower gardens of Amsterdam which won praises from even Raj Kapoor who had done it all in "Sangam". On locations in other countries, the stars rarely face any trouble. On the contrary, the few alien onlookers wonder why Indian movie characters chase each other and

behind the Screen

In Dev Anand's new film "Sau Karo" (a hundred crores), he is again claiming to introduce two new faces whom he has discovered. But like his Ektaa, these two are also not exactly new.

Fatima Sheikh, who has been a model was hovering on the fringe of filmdom and looking out for

small roles to get noticed. Raman Kapoor is actually Raman Maidh who won the IMPA talent contest but was not signed by any member producer. He wasted two years doing little bits of roles and was about to give up hopes when Dev resurrected him.

Ektaa Sharma not only pretended to be a debutante (she had already done some films). She even gave a lot of trouble to her own Columbus Dev Anand. Then, she began harassment of other producers by changing secretaries, playing truant with shooting dates and leaving films or being thrown out of them. It seems all the advance publicity, photos and coverage of her birthday bash went to her head. She began to think she was really "Awwal Number" (number one) even before Dev Sahab's film was released. (It was kept pending for the cricket season).

Films people having not gone to college cannot easily distinguish between cheese roll, mutton roll, chicken roll and film role. So in all the publicity for "Ladki", they said Mithun was doing a double roll. Perhaps they meant that he was providing twice the amount of mutton or cheese rolled up in the same film.

With the great Amitabh Bachchan falling flat after the mega failure of "Toofan" and "Jadugar," even smaller fry like Gulshan Grover have begun to peek at him. Amit made a public mistake of describing Gulshan Kumar (of "Lal Dupatta Malma Ka") as Gulshan Grover in a function. Next day at the studios, Grover made nasty remarks that Amit has lost his balance by working in all those trashy flops. That's how he was making such silly mistakes.

Star Slips

Anil Kapoor: Jackie Shroff has been the worst influence in my life. He again taught me my forgotten art of flirting. Rajiv Rai: My "Tridev" has no story at all. It was the treatment I gave and how I made the film colourful that made it a hit. Soumali Wafai: Amrita Singh does not belong to my class of women. I don't react to what she says. Then I would be bringing myself down to her class. Dev Anand: It's nice to see that with "Lashkar", I find I can still teach a thing or two to the younger lot like Amitabh Bachchan. I hate the way they put on feathers and dance around singing "murga-murga".

Mithun: Recently I was clawed by a female. I can't naturally give all the details. It could be a tigress or a woman or both.

Behind the Screen

In Dev Anand's new film "Sau Karo" (a hundred crores), he is again claiming to introduce two new faces whom he has discovered. But like his Ektaa, these two are also not exactly new.

Fatima Sheikh, who has been a model was hovering on the fringe of filmdom and looking out for

A video magazine showed a song being picturised for "Ghar ka Chirag" on Chunky and Neelam. Among those who saw and heard the song "Tutak tutak tukiyen" were the composer and the producer of the Punjabi film, for which the song was originally prepared and used. The guys were hopping mad and now they plan to take the dispute to the association of producers. Video mag, beware. Film folks may not welcome you any more on the sets.

Star Interview

Mini meet

Rekha

Q. How do you feel losing out on the role of "Chandni", which has since become a hit and made Sri Devi number one again?

A. One film does not make any difference. I have very good relations with Yash Chopra, yes, despite malicious reports. When he finds a role suited to my temperament, he will be the first to contact me. But I also have many cards up my own sleeve.

Q. Are you hinting at a film by Prakash Mehra with you and Amitabh?



Rekha seen in a glittering outfit



Amitabh and Bokadia shooting for 'Kaun Suni Fariyad' at Film City.

A. Well, maybe. There are reports like that. Let something concrete emerge.

Q. By way of publicity?

A. It was certainly not a publicity stunt.

Q. Did you gain anything by news of a criminal's plan to kidnap you for ransom?

A. I became more aware and alert. I am a single career woman living all by myself. So why should I go for such crutches and straws? I am not falling or drowning.

Q. Is this "special" thinking not egoistic?

A. Every person has a special quality. But we don't look inwards and develop it. We keep looking at others and envying. That is negative and it affects the mind and body fitness.

Soviet director teasing audiences with a provocative 'Hamlet'

Reunion possible

Beatles again

LOS ANGELES, Nov 29. (Reuters): It's been a long and winding road but Paul McCartney says the way may finally be clear for a reunion of the three ex-Beatles.

"We might get to play together after all this time," he told reporters before a concert at the Los Angeles forum on Monday night.

McCartney, making his first US tour in 12 years, said a major obstacle to a reunion had been removed with the recent settlement of longstanding lawsuits between the Beatles and their record company, and between himself, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono.

The US group the Byrds had to reunite temporarily for three California concerts in January just to lay renewed legal claim to their name, because three different groups, all fragments of the original, were calling themselves the Byrds.

McCartney said the project most likely to reunite the group was "the long and winding road," a film history that has been stalled by their legal problems.

"What might be a good way to start it is this film," he said. "Hopefully we can put the record straight ... a possibility is that George and I could write (songs) together. We've never done that."

"I don't know a better play in the world — every director dreams of staging it. Each generation for the last 400 years has wanted to express its hopes, disappointments and sorrows through this play," he told Reuters in an interview.

As if to render the tragedy starker and more intense, Lyubimov sets it on a bare stage almost totally devoid of props. His most controversial device is a huge woollen curtain, rotating and shifting to vary the audience's line of vision and the configuration of actors on stage.

Actors hide behind it, themselves in its folds or beat their bodies against it in anguish. The hapless Polonius is stabbed to death through it while eavesdropping on Hamlet's conversation with his mother.

But the curtain's versatility left some critics unimpressed.

"Lyubimov's staging of the play suggests that he considers 'Hamlet' to be about a huge mobile curtain which successfully upstages a company of moderately successful actors," scoffed Charles Osborne in the Daily Telegraph.

"This is in no sense an interpretation, wayward or otherwise, of 'Hamlet', but a travesty of a great play."

Lyubimov detects a trace of English snobbery amid the vitriol, and notes the production was highly acclaimed in other

European countries such as Italy.

The English think only they know how Shakespeare should be done — how can a Russian know and direct Shakespeare? There's a certain element of snobbery," he said.

Lyubimov, an unkempt white-haired man whose thick black spectacles add to his air of intensity, quotes extensively from the play in Russian to justify his view that "Hamlet" is about religion and the difficulty of living with faith.

"This question of life and

Comeback trail includes gig in courtroom

What's in a rock band name? A lawsuit

LONDON, (AP): For some of the rock 'n' roll groups of the 1960s and 1970s, the comeback trail includes a gig in the courtroom to try to reclaim their household names.

Lineups have changed, founding members have retired, died or gone solo. In some cases, the reunion has entailed lawyers poring over dust files to establish who owns the name.

Members of Yes, the British group that emerged in the 1970s, have just fought a lengthy legal battle to decide who has the right to use the name. Another British group, Pink Floyd, suffered similar tribulations.

The US group the Byrds had to reunite temporarily for three California concerts in January just to lay renewed legal claim to their name, because three different groups, all fragments of the original, were calling themselves the Byrds.

"A lot of acts are getting back together again and touring, so the name is absolutely crucial," said Patrick Letherwood, a music industry lawyer at Frere Chomeley, the London-based law firm that represents the Beatles.

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But the curtain's versatility left some critics unimpressed.

Brian Howard, a lawyer at Russells, a London law firm that represents Waters. "At the end of the day if you've got a good name you sell yourself.

Forbes magazine estimates that the group's reunion tour and album, "Monetary Loss of Reason," pulled in \$36 million and put Pink Floyd among the 10 biggest entertainment earners of 1989. The album has sold at least two million copies in the United States and at least 100,000 copies in Britain, according to recording industry associations in both countries.

Meanwhile, the latest album by Waters, a bass player who founded Pink Floyd in 1967 but went solo five years ago, sold fewer than one million copies.

If Waters had kept the name Pink Floyd and used different artists, he might have been much more successful, says Chris Gilbert, a London-based music industry manager.

"You could argue that Waters was the creative spearhead of that band from day one."

Waters sought a court order to dissolve the band, calling it "a spent creative force." He lost, but the right to use the giant pig that is one of the group's best-known stage props is still in litigation.

It's an extraordinarily spiritual play, and in a world starved of spirituality — we've destroyed nature, we've lived through terrible tyrannies, produced millions of victims of false, stupid theories — it's a deeply Christian and noble play," he said.

He reinforces his interpretation to the memory of Vladimir Vysotsky, the actor and poet who played Hamlet at Lyubimov's avant-garde Taganka theatre in Moscow in the 1970s, and died a national hero in 1980.

Lyubimov was accused in 1984 of "activities hostile to the Soviet state" and stripped of his citizen-

ship while directing Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" in London.

But he has been gradually rehabilitated in his native country, staging productions in Moscow in the past two years and regaining his Soviet nationality earlier this year.

Lyubimov, mobbed by admirers and adoring actors at a hectic reception after a performance of "Hamlet" in London, thinks hard when asked if he will return home for good.

... "Baby boomers" provide a large market for oldies and middle-aged rock 'n' roll bands are taking advantage of the nostalgia wave.

The Rolling Stones are touring North America, selling out four shows in New York's Shea stadium in six hours. The Kinks are on the road, as are Crosby, Stills and Nash, Jefferson Airplane and the Stray Cats are reuniting, and the Who has just completed a successful tour.

In Yes's case, a US district court ruled in July that four former members of the band led by singer Jon Anderson cannot use the name. The judge awarded ownership to bass player Chris Squire, who said he paid a hefty sum for it.

The four musicians are touring under their own names and billboards advertise "An evening of Yes music."

A band's name is particularly important when it comes to merchandising.

"It's the ultimate brand name," Gilbert said in an interview. "It's as valuable as Kit Kat, or Gordon's gin. When you think of the sums of money going into those brand names and then multiply them by the creative care and measure that's gone into a group's name you can see why someone is upset not to be able to use that name."

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Ernest saves Christmas: Inediocore

By Shaw Seckin

ERNEST Saves Christmas has been released now in an effort to get as much help as possible from the seasonal ambience and it certainly needs all the help it can get. In this case Santa has just arrived in Florida to relinquish his job in favour of honest Joe Carruthers, who used to work as presenter on a children's TV show. Having been sacked he has found work in the Orlando Children's Museum. Santa ends up arrested, gets involved with a teenager called Melody, but all is saved by Ernest, a tiny taxi driver. Ernest is not at all bothered by this bureaucratic age that we live in and seems to have at will where all other find it very barbed, with the help of an occasional disguise. Santa manages to win out in the end, so Christmas is saved. If only Ernest had been a bit more likeable as a character then the film would have appealed to me much more, as it is I'm sure that the title will manage to keep it going over the next month or so.

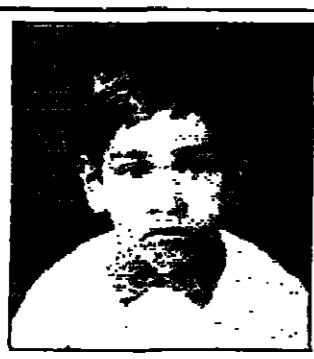
The sequel continues with Eddie and the Cruisers II: Eddie Lives and The Cruisers. In the first Eddie and The Cruisers the 1964 car crash "death" of New Jersey rock star Eddie Wilson (Michael Pare) was examined and indulged in the speculation

Happy birthday



Martha Sivan celebrated her birthday on November 5. Belated greetings from parents, and family.

Martha goes to the Indian School, Abha:siya and likes watching cartoons



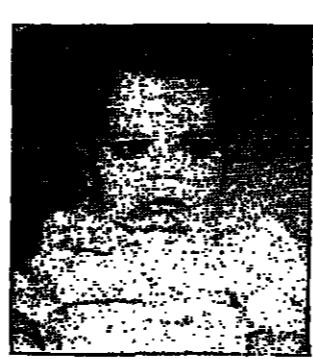
Cyril Correia celebrates his birthday today, November 28. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Cyril goes to the New Indian School and likes drawing and singing.



Deepa Asarpota celebrates her 10th birthday on November 30. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Deepa goes to the Indian School and likes drawing.



Mohammed Irshaadullah celebrates his 1st birthday on November 29. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Mohammed goes to the Carmel School and likes reading, dancing and singing.



Trudy Pinto celebrates her 5th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Trudy goes to the Carmel School and likes reading, dancing and singing.



Sheeba Albert celebrated her birthday on November 18. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.

Sheeba goes to the Carmel School and likes watching cartoons



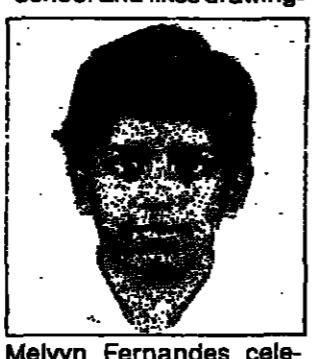
Craig D'Souza celebrates his birthday on November 30. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Craig goes to the Carmel School and likes dancing and drawing.



Arusha Sethi celebrates her 7th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Arusha goes to the Indian School, Salmiya and likes music.



Melvyn Fernandes celebrates his 10th birthday on November 30. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Melvyn goes to the Carmel School and likes drawing and painting.



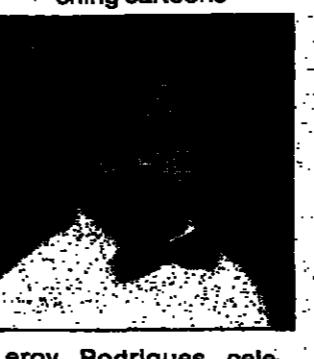
Reena D'Cunha celebrates her 7th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Reena goes to the Carmel School and likes drawing, singing and acting.



Mudassar Hanif celebrates his 7th birthday on November 29. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Mudassar goes to the International School of Pakistan and likes playing



Leroy Rodrigues celebrates his 5th birthday on December 3. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Leroy goes to the New Indian School and likes painting, and dancing.



Mukul Ahuja celebrates his 9th birthday on November 29. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Mukul goes to the Indian School, Mangaf and likes singing, music and karate.



Abeishak Malhotra celebrates his 13th birthday on December 4. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Abeishak goes to the Bowlin Boys High School in India and likes reading.



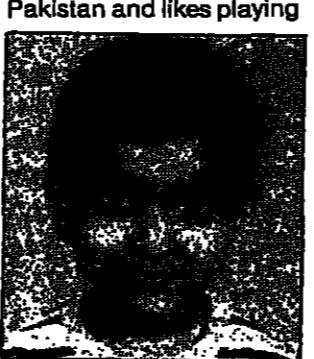
Sidehs Chodankar celebrates his 9th birthday on December 1. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Sidehs goes to the Indian School-Salmiya and likes reading and cycling.



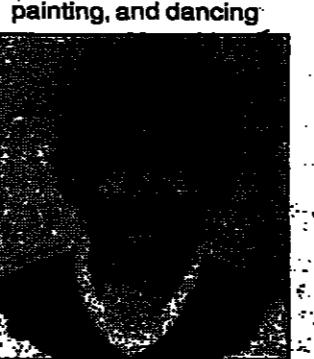
Myron Pereira celebrates his 5th birthday on December 4. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Myron goes to the United Indian School and likes watching wrestling.



Manu Vaidyan celebrates his 7th birthday on December 4. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

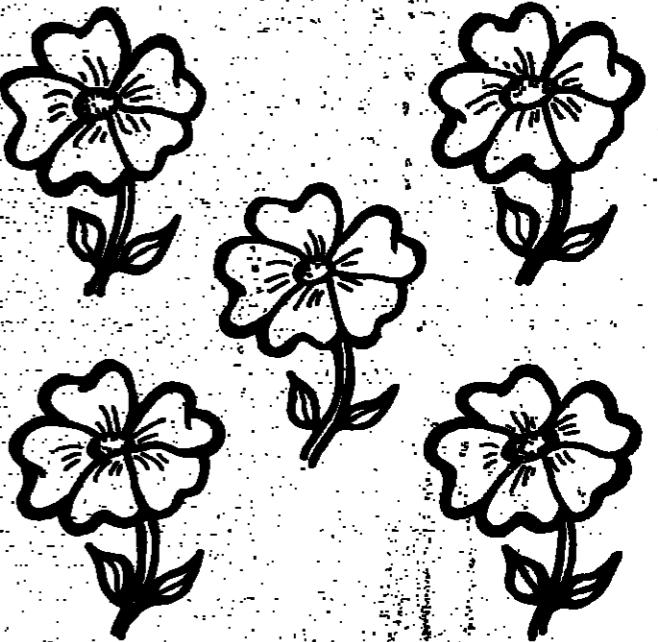
Manu goes to the United Indian School and likes watching cartoons.



Kenneth Pinto celebrates his 9th birthday on December 3. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.

Kenneth goes to the United Indian School and likes cartoons, coins.

Colour the flowers on the right yellow. Colour the flowers on the left pink and colour the flower in the middle red.



is your birthday to come soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

School: _____

Hobbies: _____

Telephone: _____
(confidential)

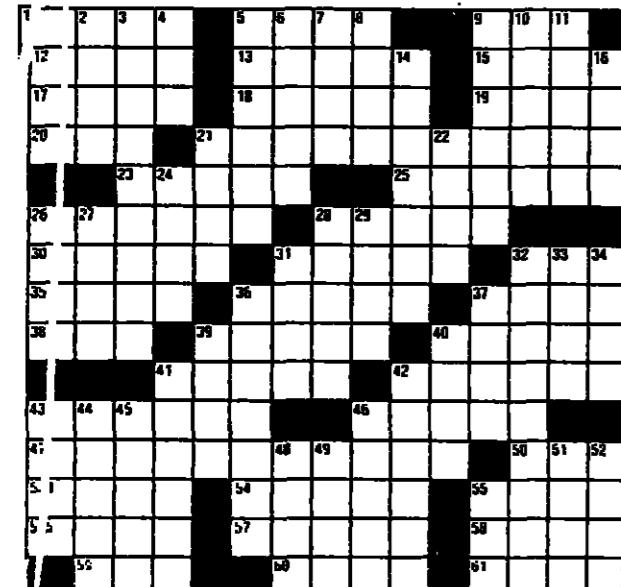
Your
favourite
most
recent
picture
(4x6)

ARAB TIMES

Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings please send
within a week before the special date

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Of — and Men
- 5. Room, at the **2. L**evel
- 9. Trick compartment
- 12. Smell
- 13. Confuse
- 15. Singer Guthrie
- 17. — fight with the world
- 18. Lasso
- 19. Eskimo's vehicle
- 20. New Prefix
- 21. Hawaiian landmark
- 23. Makes a try
- 25. Peaks
- 26. Dwell
- 28. Staff of life
- 32. Bedside item
- 34. Bedsde item
- 35. Shiver of terms
- 36. Let's fall
- 37. Bungle
- 38. Skin feature
- 39. Exhausts
- 40. Particular areas
- 41. Experts
- 42. One of the USA
- 43. One of the Trumps
- 45. Squirrel away
- 47. Persian landmark
- 50. Road curve
- 53. Give out
- 54. Academy Award
- 55. Chip in
- 56. Father
- 57. Analyze grammatically
- 58. Crowd clamor
- 59. Danson of "Cheers"
- 60. Crowd shouts

DOWN

- 61. — and the King of Siam
- 62. Ink spots
- 63. Seance sounds
- 64. "Rule Britannia" composer
- 65. Athenean landmark
- 66. Toward shelter
- 67. Army meal
- 68. Come to light
- 69. Feather scarves
- 70. Wisteria, e.g.
- 71. Mobile beginning
- 72. Liquidated, with "in"
- 73. City on the Rhone
- 74. Ewe's comment
- 75. Hoofers
- 76. Betting considerations
- 77. Soil of a type
- 78. Mobile beginning
- 79. Liquidated, with "in"
- 80. City on the Rhone
- 81. Ewe's comment
- 82. Hoofers
- 83. Betting considerations
- 84. Word from baby
- 85. Unit of weight
- 86. High-pitched sound
- 87. Hasty
- 88. A Gardner
- 89. — and the King of Siam
- 90. Ink spots
- 91. Seance sounds
- 92. "Rule Britannia" composer
- 93. Athenean landmark
- 94. Toward shelter
- 95. Army meal
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- 104. Betting considerations
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- 107. High-pitched sound
- 108. Hasty
- 109. A Gardner

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A 10 9 7 4 2
♥ Q J 4
♦ 2
♣ Q J 5

WEST

♦ 3
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ Q 7 6 5 4 3
♣ 10 3

EAST

♦ 6 5
♥ K 7 5
♦ J 10 9 8
♣ K 8 7 2

SOUTH

♦ K Q J 8
♥ A 9 8
♦ A K
♣ A 9 6 4

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:
2 NT: Pass: 3: Pass
4: Pass: 4 NT: Pass
5: Pass: 5: Pass
5: Pass: 6: Pass
Pass: Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦

Some hands require declarer to take the percentage line and hope the cards are favorably distributed. Others have a sure-trick solution, which permits declarer to claim the contract early. This hand could have been claimed at trick one.

North's three-heart response and later five-heart bid were transfer bids requesting partner to bid

spades. South's initial rebid announced a maximum in support of spades and his five-club response to Blackwood showed either three aces or none. North had no hesitation about bidding the excellent slam. Can you claim your contract?

This hand was played by Venezuelan internationalist and current New York resident David Berah in an invitational event in London. He won the king of diamonds, cashed the king of spades and ace of diamonds, on which he discarded a heart, then drew the last trump ending in dummy. Now he led the queen of clubs, and the contract was cold whether it won or lost.

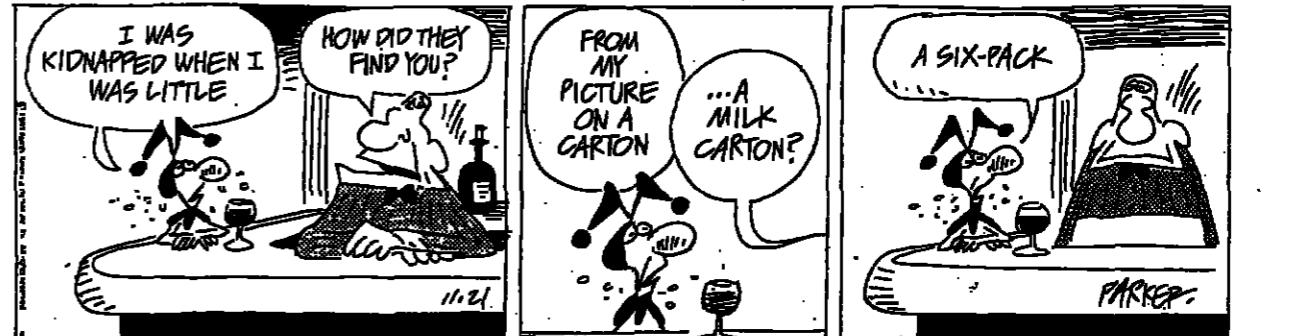
If the finesse won, declarer would concede a trick to the king of hearts, then stuff one of the table's clubs on the ace of hearts. If the finesse lost, West would be endplayed. A heart return would solve declarer's problem in that suit; a club would run to the A 9 in the closed hand, and declarer would have an extra club set up to take care of one of dummy's hearts. And a diamond would allow declarer to ruff in hand while discarding a heart from the board.

So the best way to play the hand is to openly. Claim the contract at trick one before you have the chance to make a mistake!

North's three-heart response and later five-heart bid were transfer bids requesting partner to bid

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

At first nothing will seem to go right for you. However later you will make better progress. Do not spend too much time thinking about what might have been. Be attentive.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will realize the correctness of the phrase "practice makes perfect". You will be more receptive to change. Avoid involving yourself in what does not concern you. Be a little more tactful.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Something you have been trying to do for some time will now become possible. Do not expect your partner to be perfect in all respects. Take great care when using the road. Be sensible.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You should not try to do too many things all at once. Nor should you allow yourself to become flustered by what remains to be done. Make sure you get enough rest and take sufficient exercise. Be truthful.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will be quite satisfied with the way things are going, but you must not leave it at that. You should not expect results all at once and you should try several different ways before you decide on the best.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

At first you will feel a little tired but later you will have more energy. You should not allow work to take up all your time, enjoy yourself too. Pay a little more attention to other people's opinions. Be fair.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

If you slow down a little you will act more surely. You should not expect results overnight for no effort on your part. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 28. You will know how to take a disappointment in your stride. Be generous.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You will be a little mystified by something you have not done before but it will soon fall into place. You should not expect results all at once and you should try several different ways before you decide on the best.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

A new way of doing things will prove better than the old way. You will have something to be really pleased about. Do not get into a groove, instead welcome change. Be resourceful.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You should show just a little more goodwill towards others. Accept the inevitable instead of fighting it. Make sure you eat and drink sensibly. Be reasonable.



Junior Times

Pizza, Please



Read the words in the box.

top doll wagon	bat car hoop	kite game puzzle	jacks airplane yo-yo
----------------------	--------------------	------------------------	----------------------------

Put the words in alphabetical order on the numbered lines. The first one is done for you.

1. airplane

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

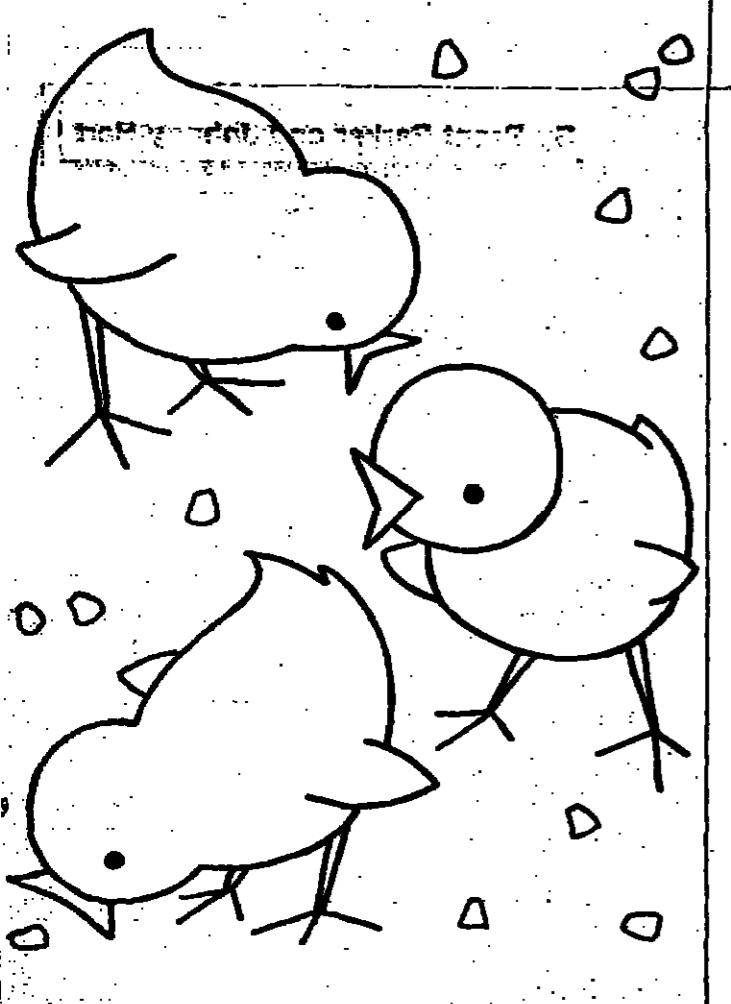
10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

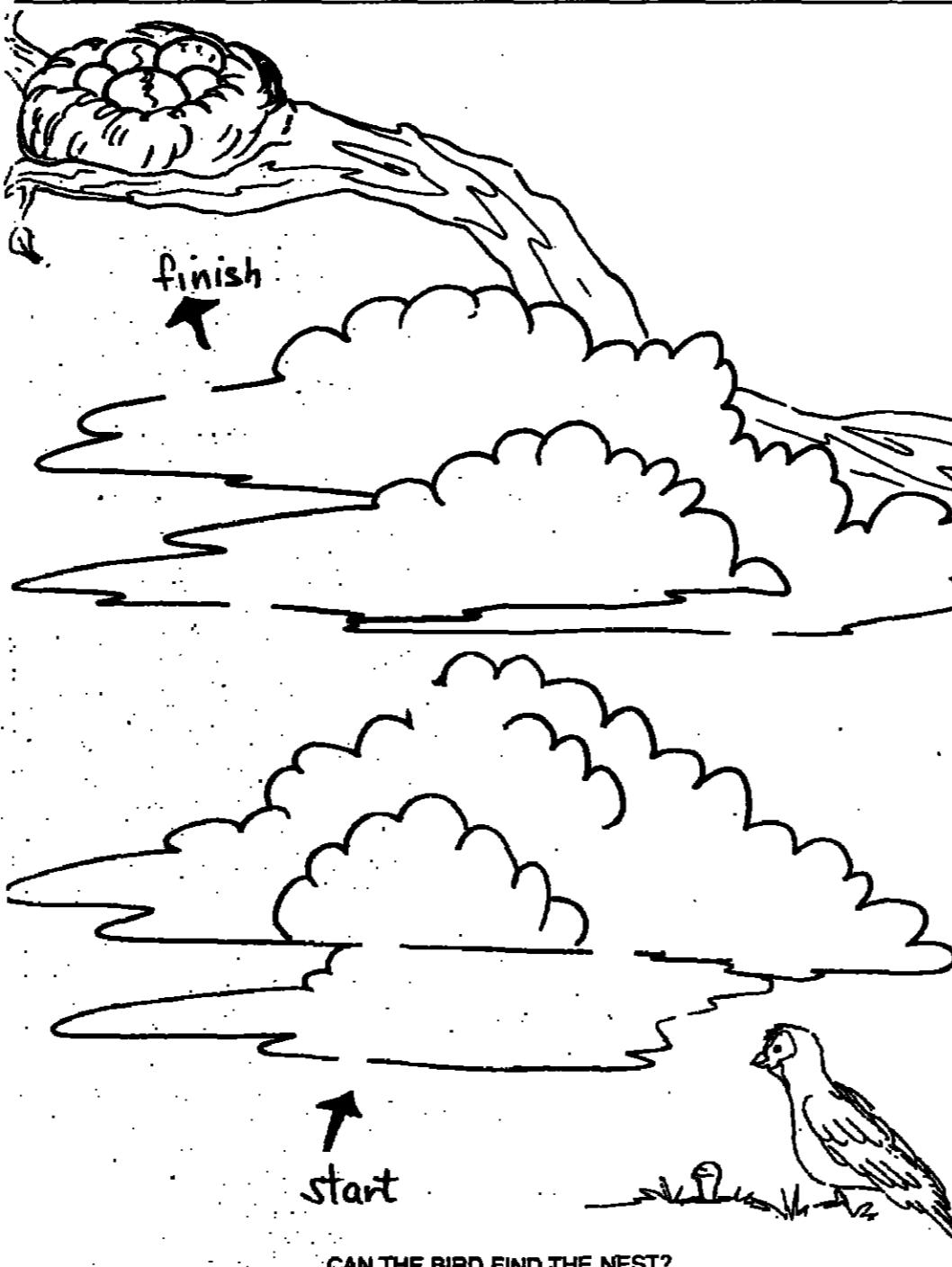
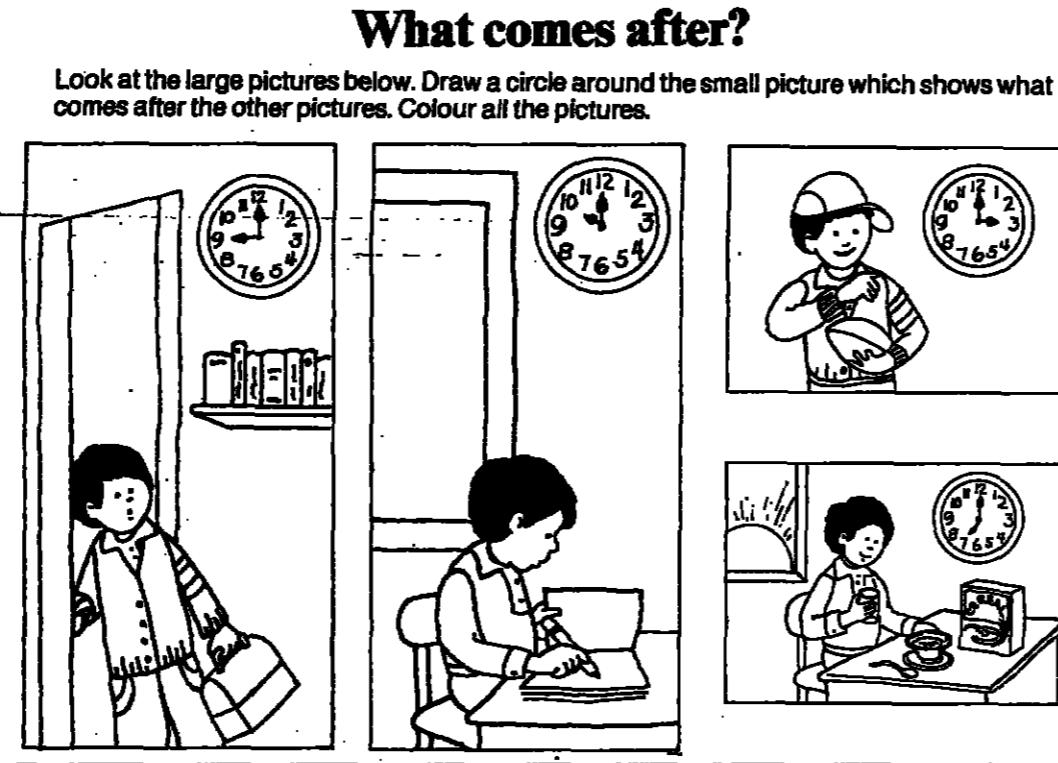
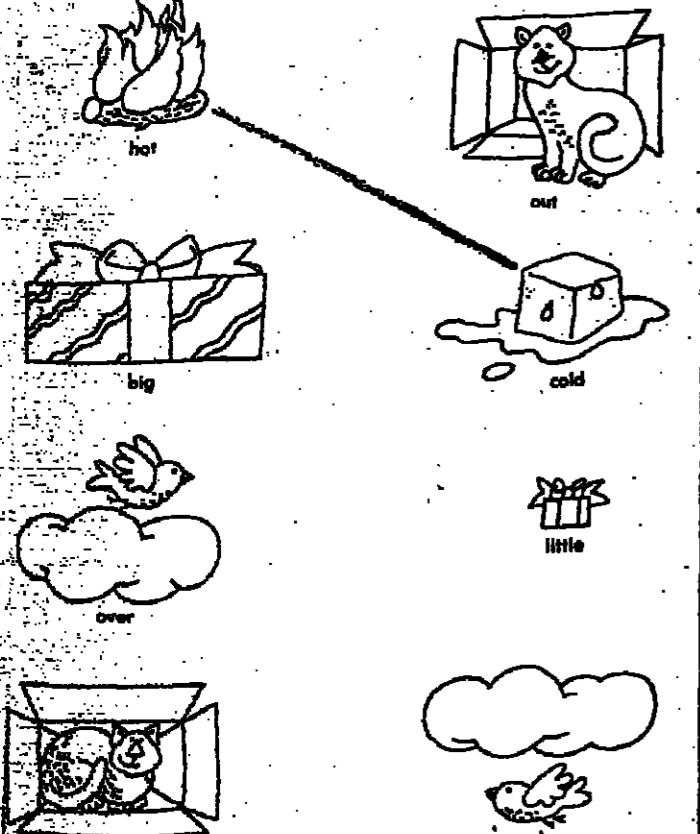
- At the pizza parlor there are 3 sizes of pizza: small, medium and large. Carlo makes 45 small, 72 medium and 115 large pizzas everyday. How many of each does he make in 7 days? — small — medium — large: How many does he make in all?
- Each small pizza takes 1 cup of cheese, each medium takes 1 1/2 cups, each large takes 2 cups. If Carlo makes 7 small, 14 medium and 9 large, how much cheese will he need? —
- Sally buys 1 small pizza at £2.49, 1 large cola at 65p and 1 salad at £1.45. How much does Sally pay for dinner? —
- Bob's total bill is £10.37. He gives Carlo £20.00. How much change does he get? —
- On a hot day Carlo sold 192 small drinks, 105 large drinks and 97 medium drinks. How many drinks did he sell? —
- Carlo works from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. fixing pizza dough, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. preparing cheese and from 9 a.m. to 9.45 a.m. preparing the other ingredients. How long does it take him to prepare the things to make pizza?

Colouring time



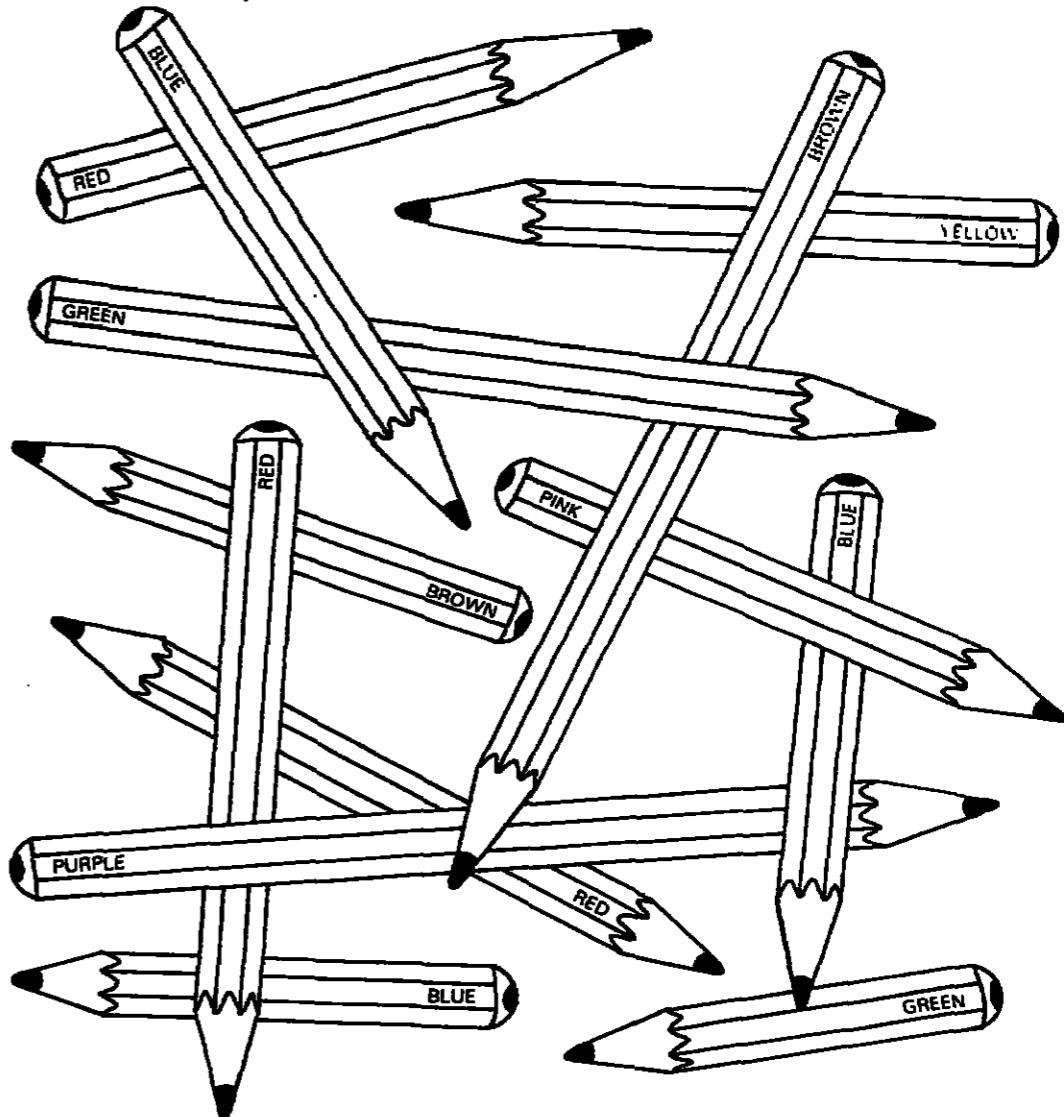
Opposites

Find the pictures that are opposites. Draw a line.



Pencils, pencils, pencils

Two of the colours appear three times; can you say what they are? How many pencils are there altogether? Colour the pencils the correct colour.



First and last

The idea of a tunnel under the English Channel is not as new as you might imagine; in Napoleon's reign it was first proposed. Eighty years later in 1880 it was rejected by the British because it would make Britain easier to attack.

The first dentists in Japan pulled teeth with their fingers. They had to practise to make their fingers stronger to do so. Alexei Leonov became the first man to float in space when he left Voskhod II for a short walk in March 1965.

London's first electric underground railway was opened in 1890.

'Limey' is an American nickname for a British sailor. It was first used when the Admiralty issued all sailors with lime juice to stop them falling ill with the dreaded disease, scurvy, which is caused by lack of vitamin C. The name 'Limey' has stuck ever since.

The first name 'Sarah' was not very popular in its original form, *sarai*, which in Hebrew meant 'quarrelsome' or 'difficult.' The simple change of the last letter to 'h' meant that 'Sarah' became immensely popular all over the world for it then came to mean 'Princess.'

One of the earliest dinosaurs discovered by nineteenth-century investigator was the so-called Iguanodon. However, when they first tried to assemble its bones, they made two unfortunate mistakes. To begin with they assembled the bones to show the animal walking on four legs; later evidence showed that it only walked on two. Then, finding an odd spiked bone left over, they attached this to the Iguanodon's head, making it look like a unicorn. It turned out that this spike was really a type of thorn, which should have been attached to the creature's hand.

Poem column

Katy Katy

Katy Katy
What have you done,
I've searched the cellar,
and only found one?

It followed me up,
it did it did,
when I saw the light,
I'm sure it hid.

Katy Katy,
you said I had two,
but I only found one,
I don't believe you.

It was stuck to my feet,
as I climbed up a ladder,
oh mercy me,
I've only one shadow.

Julie Hodgson

When I was little

When I was little
mud pies were great
slapping it on a toy plastic plate,
hiding when mum shouts up the path,
"In you lot come it's time for a bath."

By Julie Hodgson

When I was little
I always heard
eat up your greens
not just a third
pull up your socks
don't be ashamed
now I'm a mum
I say just the same.

By Julie Hodgson

Word search

LOOKIN' GOOD

Wow — who does your hair — and have you been dieting, exercising — or both? Seems to us that you're lookin' good!

ALLURE	ELEGANT	MAKEUP	SMILE	SVELTE
APPEAL	FAIR	MODISH	SMOOTH	TASTE
BEAUTIFUL	FINE	NEAT	SNAZZY	TRIM
CHARM	FIT	PEP	STYLE	VOGUE
CHIC	FORM	PERT	SUAVE	
CLASSY	GLAMOUR	POISE		
CLEAN	GOOD	POSH		
CUTE	GRACE	PRETTY		
DAPPER	HANDSOME	SHARP		
DRESSY	HEALTHY	SLEEK		

G	F	I	N	E	P	P	E	P	H	H	S	T	L	Y	
L	L	B	C	R	N	E	A	T	A	S	M	E	H	V	
E	L	A	E	U	E	H	T	A	E	O	I	T	D	T	
M	U	T	M	A	T	R	I	L	M	P	L	D	O	R	
M	T	G	R	O	U	E	Y	K	E	A	E	C	O	I	
Y	R	P	O	E	U	T	C	S	E	V	K	L	G	M	
H	E	M	F	V	S	R	I	H	U	Y	S	E	P	T	
E	S	M	R	A	H	C	F	Z	V	G	A	U	E		
S	R	D	O	U	T	V	C	Z	U	K	E	N	C	P	
I	L	U	H	S	R	I	A	F	Y	L	A	L	L		
O	E	A	L	K	D	N	F	O	E	S	R	M	A	P	
P	E	T	E	L	S	N	O	G	R	G	S	E	R		
P	E	T	E	L	S	N	O	G	R	G	S	E	R		
O	E	E	S	P	A	D	A	P	P	E	R	A	P	T	
I	L	R	G	A	P	N	E	H	T	C	A	L	M		
S	L	E	T	K	T	A	D	R	E	S	S	Y	U	C	

Lendl and Edberg score easy wins

Becker struggles past Gilbert

NEW YORK, Nov 29. (Reuters): Defending champion Boris Becker struggled past old nemesis Brad Gilbert 2-6 6-3 6-4 yesterday, the opening night of the season-ending Masters tennis tournament.

"It was an exhausting match. I'm glad I won it," said the second-ranked West German after the nearly three-hour battle.

Earlier yesterday, five-time Masters champion Ivan Lendl and third-ranked Swede Stefan Edberg crushed to easy victories in their opening round-robin matches.

World number one Lendl avenged his French Open defeat with a 6-1 6-3 win over 17-year-old American Michael Chang.

Chang, the French Open champion, who is making his Masters debut, was overwhelmed by Lendl, who has been to the final of this \$3.1 million event the last nine years. For most of the match, Chang could barely get his racket on Lendl's big serve.

In the opening match of the eight-player tournament, Edberg posted a 6-4 6-2 win over seventh-ranked American Andre Agassi.

"There's nothing you can do



Becker: outlasts Gilbert



Edberg: blasts Agassi

when someone plays like that," said Agassi, who complained of neck problems.

With his victory over Gilbert, Becker may have cleared his

toughest hurdle on the way to the semifinals, though he must still play Edberg and Agassi — the other members of the Ilie Nastase Group. Becker had lost four

of his meetings with Gilbert.

Gilbert, ironically, had dropped the first set in each of his wins over the Wimbledon and US Open champion.

The sixth-ranked American had Becker on the defensive in the opening set as Gilbert scored with passing shots while the West German struggled to find booming serve.

Becker did not have a service game without facing at least one break point until eight game of the second set when he held at 15 for 5-3.

Becker then broke Gilbert, who also was erratic on serve, to level the match.

The tense third set was a raucous affair punctuated by vocal supporters of both players in Madison Square Garden.

There were also angry exchanges between the two rivals. At one point Gilbert yelled at Becker to "shut up," when he contradicted the American, who was arguing a line call.

"I guess we don't like each other so much. We've had so many close matches that there's more emotion than necessary. There's exchanges of words, not only strokes," Becker said.

Gilbert, winner of five titles this year, came up with the first break of the final set but Becker came right back to break at love for 2-2.



Lendl: had an easy match against Chang

Baseball teams go on spending spree

NEW YORK, Nov 29. (AP): US professional baseball took another step back to the free-spending ways of the late '70s and early '80s yesterday, when Rickey Henderson and the Oakland Athletics broke the three-year contract barrier that had been in place since 1985.

Henderson agreed to stay with the World Series champions for \$12 million over four years. No club had given a contract of that length since Oct 11, 1985, when Ken Oberkfell and the Atlanta Braves reached a \$3 million, four-year agreement. In the interim, two arbitrators found clubs guilty of conspiring against free agents, and a third collusion grievance was filed and is pending.

Henderson's four-year con-

tract came less than 24 hours after Barry Bonds, accused by the union of being one of the architects of collusion, resigned as head of the owners' player relations committee.

On the busiest day thus far in the offseason, pitcher Bryn Smith left the Montreal Expos to sign a \$6 million, three-year contract with the St Louis Cardinals; outfielder Candy Maldonado left the San Francisco Giants to sign a \$825,000 one-year contract with the Cleveland Indians; infielder Dave Anderson left the Los Angeles Dodgers to sign a two-year contract with San Francisco, and California Angels catcher Lance Parrish was decided a "new look" free agent by George Nicolau, baseball's impartial arbitrator.

Drugs battle not moving fast enough, says expert

BONN, Nov 29. (Reuters): Sport's battle against performance-enhancing drugs is not moving fast enough and doping will remain a problem in the 1990s. Manfred Donike, the world's foremost doping expert, said yesterday.

Donike, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) drugs scientist who runs a doping-testing clinic in Cologne, said the problem of athletes abusing their bodies with drugs would not go away quickly.

"I don't think we are making progress fast enough," Donike told a West German news agency. "We are going to be dealing intensively with this problem in the 1990s."

More scientific research was needed to stop athletes reaching for pill packets and needles in the belief they could transform them into sporting stars, he added.

"I don't think anabolic steroids are any use in top-class sport," Donike said. "What is important is the psychogenetic (psychological) aspect that may enable an athlete to train for five hours a day instead of three."

"The dangers are obvious. Anabolics reduce the body's normal hormone production and confuse the body's hormone system."

Donike also said the popular belief in many locker rooms that the male hormone testosterone helped athletes recover more quickly from injury was wrong.

"It has been scientifically proved that testosterone does not accelerate the healing process. It has no effect whatsoever," he said in the interview.

"But medicine's pundits of drug substitutes keep preaching it ... we have to do more tests to find out the side-effects of anabolics and how common they are... too little scientific work is done in sports medicine."

A worldwide debate on drugs was sparked by the disqualification of Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson after he tested positive at the 1988 Seoul Olympics and admitted he had been taking drugs for several years.

According to Donike, several countries have made progress since Seoul with new anti-doping measures.

He said he did not expect any positive dope tests at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Cantona: France's enfant terrible

PARIS, Nov 29. (Reuters): Eric Cantona is a soccer player who paints, plays the violin, practises yoga and scores goals, not necessarily in that order.

He probably possesses the greatest natural talents among the post-Platini generation in France.

But he is most certainly not the paragon of tranquility his off-the-field pursuits suggest. In little more than a year, Cantona has become the most terrible of French soccer's enfant terribles.

Transferred three times and disciplined twice for striking team mates, Cantona was suspended from his club for throwing his shirt at a referee and banned from the national team for vilifying the trainer.

More articulate with his feet — and with his fists — than with his mouth, Cantona wears a permanently sombre expression which bears the imprint of an apparently troubled soul.

In many ways, he is a soccer James Dean of the 1980s. "I have nothing in common with people in the world of football," he said when he won his first cap two years ago at the age of 21. "They disgust me."

If the rebel has still not found his cause, he has at least found his champion — no less than Michel

Platini himself, France's greatest ever player and national team chief.

Platini, who should recognise an extravagant talent when he sees it, has forgiven Cantona his past transgressions and given him a permanent place up front in the French team.

"Eric is a player of talent and character," he said when he recalled him this season after a year's suspension for his crude insult on predecessor Henri Michel. "The French team needs players of character. Besides, he's changed."

Cantona repaid Platini on the pitch with three goals in his first three games but did not live up to the generous assessment of his personality.

In October, a new Cantona affair became the cause célèbre of the French media when his latest club, Montpellier, suspended him for punching team mate Jean-Claude Lemouton after a 1-0 defeat in Lille.

Club president Louis Nicollin, who witnessed the incident, vowed that Cantona would never play for his team again. Ironically, Lemouton warmly welcomed Cantona at the time of his transfer from Bordeaux in the close season. "The stories about him are exaggerated," he had

said. "He's much misunderstood."

Montpellier were the third club to find Cantona too hot to handle in a year. Marseilles signed him from Auxerre in the summer of 1988 for a domestic record fee of 22 million francs (\$3.5 million).

At Auxerre, Cantona benefited from the small-town atmosphere and authoritative approach of trainer Guy Roux although he did find himself in a spot of bother once for striking colleague Bruno Martini, the French national side's reserve keeper.

But in the big port of Marseilles, his native city, Cantona was more exposed and subjected to far more pressure. His fuse did not last long to blow.

Booed by fans in a charity match in northern France, he stormed off the field throwing his shirt at the referee and landed up in hot water with uncompromising boss Bernard Tapie.

The millionaire president was less than amused to see the Marseille shirt treated with such contempt and loaned him out to Bordeaux, where Cantona proved a huge flop.

In his first match, he tried an outrageous gamble and lost.

Bordeaux drew with Second Division Beauvais in the Cup and Cantona was called on to take a vital penalty in the shoot-out.

Perhaps deluded by the wealth of praise heaped on him for his obvious considerable skills, Cantona decided to try to imitate the subtle 'soft' penalty with which Anton Panenka won the European Championship for Czechoslovakia against West Germany in 1976.

Platini had rightly reasoned that as the keeper was bound to commit himself to dive to one side, a disguised soft shot in the centre would succeed. But the ruse did not fool the Beauvais goalkeeper and Bordeaux crashed out.

Bordeaux dumped Cantona in the summer and the player went again on loan to Montpellier to team up with close friend Stéphane Paille, with whom he had formed an impressive striking partnership when France won the European under-21 title in 1988.

But the much-vaunted duo failed to flourish as Montpellier foundered. In the end it was Paille who left first, transferred to Bordeaux after asking for a move when he was left out of the first team earlier this month.

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Simon submitted a written transfer request recently after claiming he was the victim of a media vendetta and that his family had been affected by adverse publicity.

Billy McNeill, manager of the Scottish Premier League side, spent two weeks trying to convince his captain to stay, but yesterday he said: "I have been unable to dissuade Roy from the course he has chosen."

Celtic allow Aitken move

GLASGOW, Nov 29. (Reuters): Glasgow Celtic yesterday reluctantly agreed to allow their Scottish soccer international Roy Aitken to leave the club.

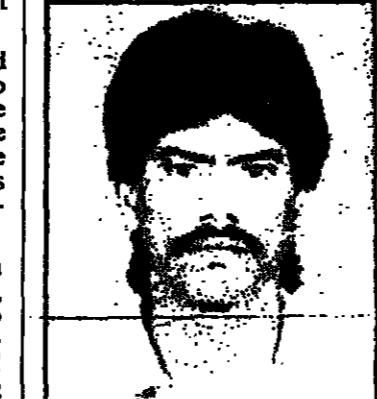
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Faced with such tight bowling, Gulf Group were all out for 75 with only Dawood (12) and Salfim (12) reaching the double figures.

In another match this week, Socials scored an emphatic victory over Cricket club of Kuwait in a Gulf Cricket League "A"

YBCC, Socials win



Simon: four wickets

Paul: four for 25

Division game for the Burud Trophy.

Socials scored 137 for eight wickets in their allotted 25 overs. Arun scoring a scintillating 68 not out after a disastrous start and Dinesh 20 took the score to some respectability.

Arun's knock was studded with 5 powerful boundaries. For CCK, Faisal 4/24, Riaz 2/12 were the main wicket-takers.

CCK replied strongly and at one stage needed 25 runs in 30 balls to win, until Paul struck with some accurate bowling and together with Saleem batted out CCK.

The last six wickets falling for only 15 runs as CCK scored only 131 leaving Socials C.C. victors by 6 runs.

According to Donike, several countries have made progress since Seoul with new anti-doping measures.

He said he did not expect any positive dope tests at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Liverpool return to stadium of death

LONDON, Nov 29. (Reuters): Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish yesterday pleaded for a dignified return to Hillsborough stadium when they take on Sheffield Wednesday in an English League game late this evening.

Liverpool return there for the first time since the tragedy last April when 95 spectators were crushed to death at a Foothill Association cup semifinal with Nottingham Forest.

Dalglish said: "If Liverpool as a club can conduct themselves in the same dignified manner as the aftermath, then no-one can have any

complaints."

Liverpool, the police and local authorities are appealing for fans without tickets not to travel to Hillsborough.

The leppings Lane end, the scene of the tragedy caused when a mass of spectators surged onto the packed terraces through a gate opened to relieve pressure outside, will remain closed.

A team of social workers will be standing by to administer aid to supporters who become distressed, and a Sheffield police chief pleaded for careful handling from his officers.

Indian Veterans edge Pakistanis for Nehru Cup



Rangaswami (left) presents the trophy to Malhotra



The victorious squad with prominent guests and other officials

INDIAN Veterans beat Pakistani Veterans on the last ball of their Nehru Cup match to lift the trophy at the KCL Ground recently. The match, which was held in connection with the Nehru Centenary, was sponsored by the Kuwait International Exchange.

Top seed Jansher will now meet the winner of semifinal between fourth-seeded Australian Chris Robertson and England's Bryan Bessom, who is unseeded. The first women's semifinal was a much tighter affair with England's Alison Cumming beating Ireland's Rebecca Best 6-15 10-4 13 15-10. This evening's second semifinal pitted unseeded Suzanne Horner against English compatriot Linda Geaves, seeded 33.

The India Veterans batted cautiously and built their innings slowly with S.S.N. Ganguly (30) leading the way. In the last over, the Indians needed eight runs to win. With five runs coming off the first five balls, the Indians still needed three runs off the last delivery.

Ahmed Hussain bowled the last ball to M.M.Joshi, who just managed to keep it way but the Pakistani Veterans managed to score 149 in the 23 allotted overs with Chaudhry Javed hitting 33

runs for the Indian side.

The India Veterans had the Pakistani Ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed in their squad while the Indian Ambassador A.K. Bhuduraj and the Sri Lankan Ambassador L. Shariffuddin witnessed the game.

After the match, the managing director of KIIC Rangaswami gave away the Nehru Cup to Malhotra while the wives of the Indian and Pakistani ambassadors gave away the individual prizes.

S.S.N. Ganguly took the Best Batsman award while T.K. Behram and Haji Sarfaraz got the Best Bowler awards.

The president of the Kuwait Cricket League Sajid Rizvi and P.K. Merwali were praised for their efforts in organizing the match. Sajid Rizvi, while thanking all the participants and guests, announced that a similar match would be held in the near future for the 'Bhutto Trophy'. He added that the date for this event would be announced shortly.

In fact, Christie was moved up to second, after Ben Johnson of Canada, the first-place finisher in a world-record 9.7

SPORTS BRIEFS

Former captain

LONDON, Nov 29. (Reuters): Former England captain Ray Wilkins signed for Queen's Park Rangers yesterday less than 24 hours after the English First Division club dismissed manager Trevor Francis, who had persuaded Wilkins to return to London.

World Cup

ROME, Nov 29. (AP): The trophy awarded to the World Cup soccer champion will be brought to the site of the 1990 finals this weekend by the president of the Argentine federation, tournament organizers said yesterday.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Nov 29. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Cleveland	92	Washington	91
Orlando	104	Miami	99
Chicago	103	Atlanta	98
Houston	110	L.A. Lakers	104
San Antonio	111	Seattle	104
Denver	141	Golden State	120
Portland	116	L.A. Clippers	94
Detroit	93	Sacramento	81

Rous Cup

LONDON, Nov 29. (Reuters): Uruguay have accepted an invitation to face England at Wembley next May, just three weeks before the World Cup finals in Italy. England have also invited world champion Argentina to participate in the three-nation Rous Cup tournament.

Positive test

EAST BERLIN, Nov 29. (Reuters): An East German woman bodybuilder tested positive for anabolic steroids during a routine drugs check before an event in Bulgaria, the sports daily Sportecho reported today. It said East Berlin-based Elke Tiefenbacher gave the chance to repeat the urine test twice, on Saturday and Monday, but failed to turn up.

BRIDGE

RESULTS of bridge game held on Tuesday at Regency Hotel:

N's
1. Dr. Zaid & Qasim
2. Tab & Sherin
3. Farah
E/W
1. Dr. Reddy & Lata
2. D'Souza & D. Pereira
3. Boukhari & Steiner and Dux & Drexler



ACCEPTS
APPLICATIONS
FOR NEW
COMPUTER
COURSES
STARTING
16/12/1989

SALMIYA 5726663 3921175
5725669 3921195



Salmiya - Salem Al-Mubarak St. Tel: 5714723 - 5711118

ARAB TIMES
Published by:
Dar Al-Seyassah

Romanian gymnast seeks political asylum

Comaneci flees to Hungary



Comaneci performing during a tournament in 1979.

financial security for the sake of freedom, Hungarian radio said.

She said she had been refused permission to accept offers to work in the West as a coach or to travel to the West for any reason. Recently she was denied permission to visit Hungary, one of Romania's Warsaw Pact allies.

Tens of thousands of Romanians unhappy with life under President Nicolae Ceausescu and inspired by political reforms over the border, have fled to Hungary in the past two years.

Comaneci, who retired from competition after the 1981 University Games, said she left behind a furnished flat, a car and

political asylum to a Soviet citizen and a Bulgarian in what diplomats believe were the first examples of one Warsaw Pact country giving shelter to citizens from another.

Róbert Forgács, general secretary of the Hungarian Gymnastic Federation, said his organization would offer help to Comaneci if she went to Budapest.

"It is natural that we would help her as soon as she arrives," he told Reuters.

The four foot 11 inches (1.49 metres) tall Comaneci endeared herself to the army of journalists who besieged her after her Hungarian this month granted

treachery when, asked what her greatest wish was, she replied: "I want to go home."

She later wrote an autobiography, completed her studies in physical education at Bucharest University and became an international gymnastics judge.

Nadia Elena Comaneci was born on Nov 12, 1961, in the Moldavian town of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej in Eastern Romania.

The daughter of a car mechanic and an office worker, she showed tireless capacity for jumping and somersaults which led her mother to enrol the six-year-old in a gymnastics

The Soviet Union, which did not allow girls under 14 to compete, were caught off balance and lost their traditional domination of the sport for many years.

class. Just one year later she was spotted at a gymnastics talent trial at her school by the husband-and-wife coaching team of Marta and Bela Karolyi.

They took over Nadia's class to convince the Romanian sports authorities of their then revolutionary theory that good results could be achieved with young gymnasts below the age of 12.

Under their strict coaching, Nadia began devoting some four hours a day to gymnastics and five to schoolwork.

At the age of nine she won all five gold medals at the Romanian Federation Cup. She made her international gymnastics debut at a contest in Poland in 1971 where she won critical acclaim for her unusual sureness and agility.

Her rise was meteoric and by 1973 she was firmly established on the Romanian national team, when she caused a sensation at the European Championships by defeating the reigning world champion, Ludmila Turischcheva of the Soviet Union.

The technical purity of her performance was her most brilliant characteristic, her coaches said of her. Physically she had great strength, speed and flexibility. Mentally she had intelligence and phenomenal powers of concentration and courage.

Nadia transformed gymnastics with her European Championship and Olympic victories and the sport became the domain of teenage girls with light supple bodies who could outclass mature women like Turischcheva.

The Soviet Union, which did not allow girls under 14 to compete, were caught off balance and lost their traditional domination of the sport for many years.



Basyouni triumphs

SHERIN Basyouni took the Best Player award recently after finishing with the maximum number of points in the Westminster System - 17 sponsored Regency Bridge Club games over the period July 1 to Oct 31.

Ahmed Hneidi took second place while Narendra Shah finished third, Nabil Akel took the fourth position while Adel Bayoumi was fifth, Ahmed Tawel sixth, Bianca Mousali seventh, Amit Abedin eighth, Dhruva Mukherjee ninth and Leila Merabi tenth.

The end of the 2nd Westminster System - 17 tournament was also held on the same day. The results were as follows:

N/S 1. Salman Ali & Walkiewicz
2. Bianca Mousali & Ahmed Tawel
3. Ahmed Hneidi & Mohammed El Bar
4. K.T. Simon & Ray Choudhry E/W
1. Dhruva Mukherjee & Ravi Bhatt
2. Shankar Reddy & J. Gajjar
3. Lollo Murthwaite & Dena Materny
4. Amit Abedin & Jaggi

The award for the best ladies pair was taken by Jamila Akel and Rabab Abboushi while Rima and Fiaad Farah took the prize for the best mixed pair. The prizes were presented by Raja Khairallah.

The games were directed by Nabil Akel.



Salman Ali, Walkiewicz, and Sultan Ali during their game

Director Nabil (centre), Khairallah (right) and Ahmed Tawel.

Top player

LONDON, Nov 29. (Reuters): Varghese or R. John Ganti single 4.30pm
F. Mohyuddin or G. Joseph vs S. Varghese or Mathew N.C. Ladies doubles 5.00pm
M. Haseman & K. Taylor beat M. Trampi & H. Partridge (15.2) (15.3)
R. Tharian & S. Varghese beat L. Mundy & J. Young (15.1) (15.4)

R. John & G. Anthony
Gents double 5.30pm
V. Joseph & K. Thomas or Mathew N.C. & S. Kumar vs R. D'Silva & S. Varghese or J. Hussain & M. Sadiq
Mixed double 6.00pm

F. Mohyuddin & R. John or A.M. Ghazi & L. Mundy vs V. Joseph & S. Varghese or C. George & G. Anthony

Today's matches
(Final)
Ladies singles 4.00pm
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